

Pleasant Residential Care

North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners
PO Box 914
Bismarck, ND 58502-0914

Re: Jane Doe – Letter of Diagnosing

Dear Review Board:

Ms. Jane Doe is currently employed as a therapist at Pleasant Residential Care, in Bismarck, ND. I am a licensed social worker and the Clinical Director with more than 20 years of clinical practice. I will serve as Jane's immediate and clinical supervisor.

Jane's duties and responsibilities involve providing individual, group, and family psychotherapy to the male and female residents. The psychotherapy provided will be for the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility level of care. The expected caseload size is between 10-15 clients. Some of the specific employment duties, responsibilities, and learning experiences will be diagnosing utilizing the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-5th (DSM-5) Edition. The following will apply:

- Completion of a diagnostic assessment on each resident in her caseload. A diagnostic impression will be completed which includes a diagnosis utilizing the DSM-5. Additionally, a dynamic formulation will be completed which is a summary of the client's information and a rationale for the diagnosis. The diagnostic assessment will be reviewed in weekly supervision with the clinical director.
- With the completion of services, documentation must be completed in the form of a progress note which includes the client's diagnosis and treatment plan. This allows for the opportunity to be continuously diagnostically assessing the client and adjusting the diagnosis as warranted in accordance with the DSM-5.
- Weekly interdisciplinary rounds lead by the psychiatrist and medical director, Dr. Marcus Welby, allows for additional exposure to diagnostic skills utilizing the DSM-5. The meetings allow for the presentation of client cases and impressions of the client's progress/regression. The client's diagnosis is discussed during the rounds and provides for an excellent opportunity to learn about diagnoses and the DSM-5 from the viewpoint of a psychiatrist and psychologist.
- The results of the psychological testing are reviewed with the psychologist. This assists in the understanding of how psychological testing aids in the diagnosis and development of treatment plans and recommendations for the client.
- Core team meetings are scheduled on a weekly basis. They review treatment plans with the inter-disciplinary team in terms of diagnoses, treatment progress and treatment planning. Participation in weekly team meetings with the staff allow for insight and suggestions to be provided to the care workers. This information is based on the clinical data on the client, as well as the client's diagnoses, based in accordance with the DSM-5.

In summary, the exact percentage of the 40-hour work week that is specific to diagnosing using the DSM-5 is difficult. The diagnostic process is an on-going process that occurs in multiple settings (therapy

sessions, team meetings, core team meetings, weekly rounds with the psychiatrist), not only with the initial clinical interview and diagnostic assessment. I would support that at least 10% of the time is spent on the specific targeted use of the DSM-5 for diagnosing, which takes place within the initial written diagnostic.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Edith Abbott

Edith Abbott
Licensed Clinical Social Worker, ND-2222
Acme Residential Care