Best Practice Social Work Role Functions in Long Term Care Facilities

1. Psychosocial assessment of residents and family members as a basis for interdisciplinary care planning and intervention.

2. Resident and family education related to illness, including teaching coping and problem-solving skills to maintain or enhance psychosocial functioning.

3. Provision of, or referral for, mental health services.

4. Coordination of discharge planning and follow-up with the resident, family, interdisciplinary team, and community services providers.

5. Documentation of resident’s psychosocial status, initial and ongoing, progress notes, review of treatment goals, and so forth.

6. Case management services to facilitate coordination and continuity of care and to assist residents and families with obtaining necessary services in the home or in the community.

7. Psychosocial interventions with individuals, families, and groups related to a range of health, social, and emotional needs.

8. Crisis intervention.

9. Liaison to family members, including coordination-of-care planning meetings.

10. Advocating with and for residents within the long-term care facility and system to ensure greater choice, quality of life, and quality of care. This may include consultation with the facility ombudsman.

11. Assisting with end-of-life planning, including legal and health matters.

12. Serving as a staff resource for training staff in nonpharmacological approaches to managing problem behaviors.

13. Participating in resident and family councils as requested.

14. Supervision of fieldwork students.

15. Participation in independent or collaborative research projects.
