

## NURSING DEPARTMENT

Demonstration of quality patient care is the major emphasis of the Nursing Department. Responsibilities of the nursing staff are carried out in a manner that meets the requirements of the Nurse Practice Act as contained in the *Code of Virginia*. Our resolve is to provide the highest quality of care possible that conveys dignity and respect to all patients at SWVMHI with a goal to assist the individual toward active involvement in the society in which he/she lives at the most optimal level of independence and functioning. This includes consideration of the patient's age group and developmental stage.

To fulfill our mission, we believe as individuals and as a group that we must continually grow in knowledge and competence through continuing education, networking and ongoing evaluation. We promote and initiate fundamental changes in concepts, practices and attitudes when such changes enhance our ability to better serve our patients.

Values and Philosophy: Psychiatric Mental Health (PMH) nursing recognizes, accepts and is based on the beliefs that:

- Each individual has an inherent dignity and worth;
- Each individual has a unique set of values, beliefs and priorities which may change from time to time, yet present a discernible, predictable pattern;
- Each individual, at any given time, may belong to one or more groups whose members share common characteristics, which also present discernible, predictable patterns;
- Each individual acts as part of a complex environmental system, which includes that person's emotional, social, mental, psychological and physical resources and cultural, attitudes, values and beliefs;
- Each individual's mental health depends upon his ability to function within the constraints of his/her environment.

When an individual is no longer able to successfully function within his/her environment, psychiatric/mental health nursing may be required. In such cases, care should be delivered in the most natural, least restrictive environment. Psychiatric nursing offers the patient a professional, therapeutic relationship, with care based on the patient's needs. Psychiatric nursing strives to restore the patient to a state of stable mental health by treating the biological, psychological, and cultural and social needs of the patient. Care is provided within the context of the nursing process, to include ongoing assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation.