

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position involves responsibility to identify, assess, and manage social problems relating to illness and disability, the receipt of medical care and attainment and maintenance of health by providing social work services to patients and families having difficulty in social functioning. The incumbent develops and implements social work treatment plans and makes referrals to other social agencies as appropriate. This position differs from Public Health Social Worker in the supervisory responsibility or more complex duties. General supervision is received from a higher ranking department employee. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Coordinates and provides social work services, where appropriate, to individuals and families receiving nursing or other services from the agency;

Prepares social histories to aid in determining the level of agency services;

Participates in agency case conferences identifying social problems, their severity, and their interrelatedness to the medical situation, as well as assessing the family's strengths and weaknesses and discussing alternate methods of alleviating the situation;

Refers patients and families to community agencies;

Keeps records and a resume of services being provided to serve in evaluating and planning the total program of the agency;

Coordinates and provides medical social work consultation to other staff members, social work services to patients and families receiving other services from the agency;

Coordinates and provides social work consultation to staff of clients and families;

Coordinates and provides ongoing case management for clients;

Receives referrals from the Social Services Department, Office for Aging, and makes initial response through telephone contact or home visit;

Oversees and assesses psychosocial and financial situation through clinic interviews;

Refers patient to appropriate agencies and community services and develops a plan of service;

Re-evaluates patients needs as required;

Participates in patient care conferences and in staff development programs;

Completes required forms and patient records on a timely basis;

Serves as a liaison between the agency and client service staff in other agencies;

Represents the agency on appropriate committees.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Good knowledge of the practices and procedures of social work and of the social and psychological factors related to diseases and disability;
- Good knowledge of the principles and practices of public health administration;
- Ability to function as a member of an inter-disciplinary health care team;
- Ability to plan and supervise the work of others;
- Ability to counsel the individuals and families being served by the agency;
- Ability to prepare records and reports related to public health service activities;
- Ability to utilize community resources effectively to meet individual and family social service needs;
- Ability to confer with and provide social service consultations to other health care professionals;
- Sympathetic attitude toward the sick and disabled;
- Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of a current certification or limited permit to practice social work in New York State issued by the State Education Department and 1 year experience as a Public Health Social Worker or equivalent.

NOTE: Drivers License is required.