

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST

NATURE OF WORK

This is health and human service work providing total outreach and advocacy to specified target group members.

Work involves responsibility for client case management including assessment, planning, advocacy and follow-up; networking with community agencies and developing outreach contacts in support of clients. Work also involves participating in departmental task forces, staff meetings, community groups and /or advisory councils; accepting public speaking requests regarding program services and/or available community services. Supervision is received from an administrative superior with work being reviewed in the form of reports, conferences and effectiveness of services provided.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Provides information and referral, counseling, short-term case work and case management services; case management responsibilities may include home visits to pregnant women and women with newborns; providing transportation and accompanying clients to medical and other community services when needed; maintaining up-to-date health assessments and progress notes on clients.

Speaks and transcribes language to non-English speaking clients, if required by the position to which assigned.

Works closely with public health nurses and the medical community to provide comprehensive health care.

Maintains contact with professionals of various health and human service agencies to determine client eligibility for services; assesses the case needs of each client; assists families in crisis or emergency situations as needed; intervenes to insure safety of clients in abusive situations.

Serves as certified Lamaze-trained childbirth educator; conducts parenting education classes; specializes as a doula (working with expectant mothers up to and through the birth of their child); conducts presentations on Healthy Homes, Teddy Bear Cottage and other minority health issues as requested.

Provides health education to pregnant women and women with newborns.

Provides intervention assistance and/or referral in domestic violence and child abuse situations; refers to organizations such as Friendship Home, American Red Cross and Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center.

Provides intervention assistance and/or referral in substance abuse situations; assists individuals and families in obtaining mental health services, substance abuse treatment, education and prevention services.

Compiles statistics and maintains records on client program participation; maintains confidential client records and case files.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Knowledge of sociological and behavioral factors influencing the behavior and attitudes of target group members relative to program to which assigned.

Knowledge of health and human service agencies in the community as well as the services provided by those agencies.

Knowledge of current health and human service rules and regulations as they apply to the clients being served.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with clients, co-workers, health and human service agencies and the general public.

Ability to obtain certification as a Lamaze-trained childbirth educator if relative to program to which assigned.

Ability to influence and persuade clients to seek and accept services available.

Ability to maintain routine records pertaining to participant utilization of services as well as to prepare summaries and reports of utilization data.

DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from a senior high school or equivalent supplemented by college level course work in the human or behavioral sciences and experience with local, state and federal assistance programs including health care and social service systems.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from a senior high school or equivalent and some experience with local, state and federal assistance programs including health care and social service systems; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Proficiency in translating and speaking the language of the minority population to which assigned, if required by the position to which assigned.

Certification as a Lamaze-trained childbirth educator prior to completion of the probationary period, if required by the position to which assigned.

Possession of a valid driver's license when operating a vehicle is necessary to the satisfactory performance of assigned duties.

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