

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE III

DEFINITION

Under direction, to plan, coordinate, and monitor assigned public health nursing programs; to supervise and train other public health nursing staff; to plan and conduct a variety of public health clinics and services; to provide nursing, educational and health counseling services in connection with the control and prevention of disease and adverse health conditions; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the full supervisory level in the Public Health Nurse class series. Assignments included program planning, development, and monitoring, as well as the supervision and training of assigned staff. This class is distinguished from Public Health Nurse II by the responsibility for supervising and training a regularly assigned staff.

REPORTS TO

Director of Nursing.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

Public Health Nurse I and II, and Registered Nurse I and II.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Develops, plans, organizes, monitors, and evaluates assigned public health nursing programs such as HIV, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and the Health Program in the County jail.
- Develops policies and procedures for assigned programs.
- Prepares grant proposals and budgets.
- Provides supervision and training for assigned staff.
- Assists the Director of Nursing with the selection and evaluation of personnel.
- Conducts physical examinations.
- Diagnoses and treats (by protocol) certain diseases.
- Investigates and interviews patients and acts to obtain treatment for ill patients.
- Searches for unreported or missed cases of communicable diseases and gives instructions in their prevention and care.
- Oversees and participates in the operations of clinics and satellite immunization sites assessing and providing immunizations.
- Serves as a patient advocate to assist patients with attaining optimal health care.
- Coordinates health care between patients and care providers.
- Assesses, screens, and provides intervention strategies to high-risk individuals and families in clinics and home visits.
- Instructs parents on child safety, growth, and development and screens for signs of abuse, poor nutrition and failure to thrive.
- Acts as "on-call" nurse to receive referrals and provide information.
- Provide case management to patients with pulmonary tuberculosis which includes coordination with their physician, monitoring compliance in treatment.
- Screens for contacts to tuberculosis by giving and reading TB skin tests, providing medications and education.
- Participates in patient meetings for "special needs" children.
- Functions in an outreach and education capacity by giving presentations to the public on special health concerns such as AIDS or Child Health issues.
- Documents treatment given and medications in patients' charts.
- Keeps statistics on a variety of communicable diseases.
- Teaches prenatal care to expectant mothers.
- Works with community groups on local health issues.
- Provides education counseling and screening for AIDS.
- Draws blood samples to determine deficiencies or assist with disease diagnosis.
- Makes home visits meets with health care providers to recruit their participation in health programs.
- Participates in family planning and other department programs.
- May function as Coordinator for the CHDP, CPSP, or other special health program.
- May serve on task forces.
- Gathers and assesses statistical data, reporting information to appropriate agencies.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; lift and move object weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in an office or clinic environment or in private home setting; exposure to communicable diseases; continuous contact with staff and the public. Incumbents may be required to drive in remote areas of the County in all weather conditions.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, methods, and procedures of general nursing and public health nursing.
- Federal, State and local laws governing the provision of public health services.
- Public health issues and problems.
- Causes, means of transmission, and methods of control of communicable diseases, including venereal disease, AIDS, and tuberculosis.
- Means of promoting child and maternal health and public health programs.
- Sociological and cultural problems involved in public health nursing.
- Community resources and demography.
- Principles of public health education.
- State laws relating to reporting Child/Adult abuse.
- Reproductive physiology and child development.
- Program and grant development, coordination, and evaluation.
- Principles of supervision and training.

Ability to:

- Plan, organize, and coordinates assigned public health nursing programs.
- Provide supervision and training for assigned staff.
- Educate and work with patients and their families.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Follow oral and written instructions.
- Assess the physical conditions of patients.
- Make oral presentations to local community groups and health care providers.
- Maintain confidentiality of material.
- Coordinate assigned activities with community organizations and other government agencies

Ability to continue:

- Interview patients and families to gather medical history.
- Draw blood samples.
- Obtain urethral culture in males.
- Determine appropriate resources for clients and make referral to those agencies.
- Work responsibly with physicians and other members of the medical team.
- Effectively represent the Health Department in contacts with the public, community organizations, and other government agencies.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients and others.

Training and Experience: Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Two (2) years of nursing experience equivalent to Public Health Nurse II with Plumas County.

Graduation from an accredited college or university and completion of an approved public health nursing program.

Special Requirements: Possession of a valid license as a Registered Nurse in California and a Certificate as a Public Health Nurse issued by the California State Board of Registered Nursing.

Possession of an appropriate California Driver's License issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.