

PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER SPECIALIST

KIND OF WORK

Advanced, specialized professional public health social work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under limited supervision, employees in this class lead, direct and collaborate in designing, developing, and building an infrastructure to improve the health and quality of life for children with special needs (medically fragile/chronically ill/disabled) or children in environments that put them at risk for developmental delays, social-emotional delays or child abuse and neglect (“at risk”). These employees develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated, community based, family centered and culturally competent system for ongoing assessment, intervention and services for at risk children or children with chronic conditions and disabilities. They serve as technical and programmatic experts within social work and public health. Employees perform other related work as required.

The range of services provided at this level require expert social services knowledge and skills for program planning and implementation, monitoring, evaluation, research, data collection and analysis, policy development, advocacy and consultation as well as the ability to influence public policy and decision makers.

Incumbents must have a sufficient grasp of involved practices and precedents or of advanced principles for the social work field and the public health field needed to conduct and improve work processes. Incumbents must assume a high degree of consulting/coordinating responsibility in social work and public health for an agency. Incumbents operate within clearly defined agency policies and principles within the discipline.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Leads, directs and participates in the collaborative policy development and strategic planning between and among public and private service delivery systems and policy makers so that the needs of at risk and special populations are represented, identified and addressed by evaluating policies, initiating and maintaining relationships with policy makers and participating in the development of or review of grant applications.

Collaborates with and provides information to community based systems that provide care and/or services for at risk children and families or children with special health needs and their families so that the capacity to meet the specialized medical, psychosocial and habilitation needs of this client population is enhanced by developing and implementing on-going outreach, advocacy and liaison activities.

Acts as expert technical consultant to service delivery systems that provide care and/or services to at risk children and families or children who are medically fragile/chronically ill/disabled so that the capacity of the systems to meet the needs of these client populations are enhanced by identifying and evaluating current service delivery systems, developing and implementing a consultation plan and intervention strategies and collaborating with the service delivery systems to develop services.

Conducts research, analyzes and disseminates data about at risk children or children with special health needs, their families and the service delivery systems so that these populations are assured optimal and appropriate service by collecting data, reviewing other sources of data, researching and evaluating social work strategies, collaborating with service delivery systems to identify their data needs and disseminating findings that support efforts to quantify the issues of this population.

Leads and collaborates in the development of training programs for peers, other professionals in health and social work and families to assure the best practice in the delivery of care and service to at risk children and their families or children with special health needs by conducting needs assessments, planning and designing training materials and programs.

Reviews state and federal legislation, current research, literature and protocols so that the impact on at risk children or children with special health needs, and their families are assessed.

Represents the department on state and regional policy making boards, committees, work groups and task forces so that programs and policies are developed and quality of programs and services are continuously improved by active involvement and participation in committees, initiatives or projects.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

The public health social work principles sufficient to analyze social and/or health problems and their effects on the clients and their families.

The social work clinical interventions or approaches to improve the physical, mental and social well-being of at risk individuals and families and the special needs population sufficient to develop and implement public health social work intervention strategies.

The strategies of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, public policy development, community organization, planning, research, administration and evaluation sufficient for assessment and intervention for children with chronic conditions and disabilities.

In-depth knowledge of pediatric and adolescent development, including social-emotional, sufficient to understand the effect of chronic illness, disabling conditions, and environments that place children at risk such as homelessness, poverty, abuse and neglect on children, families, service delivery systems and the public.

The local, regional, state and national resources sufficient to thoroughly understand how they affect at risk children or children with special health needs, their families and service delivery systems.

Local, state and federal laws and regulations effecting social and health services for this population.

Public Health Social Worker Specialist

Ethical standards and practices of professional social work.

Public health goals and core public health functions.

Research methodology, data collection, analysis and interpretation of findings sufficient to identify needs and quantify the issues of the client population.

Epidemiological methods sufficient to delineate individuals, families and groups of the target population.

Skill in:

Advances professional technical consultation to work with a variety of public and private service delivery systems, providers of care and policy makers.

Advanced human relations and communications to coordinate consensus building, provide mediation to deeply opposed individuals and groups, guide the expectations of stakeholders and customers and lead and facilitate discussion groups.

Ability to:

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with other staff, clients and community groups.

Effectively guide the expectations of stakeholders and customers and lead and facilitate discussion groups regarding systems and policies relating to sensitive, complex and possibly controversial conditions for Minnesota's children with special health needs.

Public Health Social Worker Specialist
Class Specification
Page 4

Provide training to health, social service and education professionals.

Develop, implement and evaluate projects that demonstrate innovative public health approaches.

Function in self directed work teams.

Licensure:

Some positions may require licensure with the State of Minnesota Board of Social Work.

Est.: 8/96
Rev.: 11/08

T.C.:
Former Title(s):