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COMMUNITY DISEASE CONTROL SPECIALIST II

This is professional level work in county health departments involving the detection, treatment, and contact investigation of a variety of communicable diseases. Work is performed with considerable independence and involves investigation and control techniques as described in the Community Disease Control Specialist I level in the wider range of communicable diseases, high priority diseases. Employees determine need and extent of follow-up based on State or Federal guidelines. Employees frequently coordinate communicable disease clinics and provide direction to clinic staff on type of patient examination required or program procedures and requirements. Employees provide consultation to public health education staff and community medical providers, develop and present structured workshops to school personnel and clinic staff and make informational presentations to community groups. Employees are usually responsible for program planning and evaluation, are involved in establishing protocols, providing input into program budget and may supervise lower level staff. Employees usually report to agency director or nursing director.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Employees are responsible for participating in the control activities of a variety of reportable communicable diseases and conduct personal interviews to identify and locate case suspects, their contacts, and associates, obtain epidemiologic information, and motivate them to accept timely examination and treatment. Employees explain legal requirements and disease-related information to clients; provide technical assistance and consultation to health department staff and community medical personnel; perform laboratory tests and examinations; obtain case-related information from private physicians and laboratories; disseminate pertinent educational materials; and provide case follow-up. Employees may participate in program planning, evaluation and establishing protocols.

Intricacy - Clients and contacts from all socioeconomic levels require that employees utilize a variety of techniques to elicit identifying and locating information on case suspects and their contacts while preserving confidentiality. Employees use greater analysis and judgment in determining investigative and follow-up priority in their responsibility for a variety of communicable diseases and demonstrate a knowledge of educational and motivational techniques to encourage acceptance of treatment.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires a basic understanding of federal, state, and local public health laws and regulations, knowledge of interviewing techniques for use in obtaining locating information on case suspects and contacts; knowledge of motivational techniques to encourage acceptance of treatment; basic knowledge of medical terminology and disease processes of a variety of reportable communicable diseases; knowledge of supportive counseling techniques.

Guidelines - Employees utilize agency guidelines, federal or state standards and technical/procedural guides which are well delineated and readily available.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Employees receive general instructions and new program requirements from supervisors. Structured technical training is provided by Center for Disease Control and may be reinforced by regional staff who may provide assistance in difficult situations.

Nature of Review - Direct client interaction and investigation results are documented in accordance with agency requirements. Work is reviewed for technical accuracy, adequacy, and adherence to guidelines.

Scope of Decisions - Conclusions drawn and actions taken regarding investigative priority and extent of follow-through in accordance with established procedures affect the health of clients and their contacts. Employees may provide direction or instruction to clinic staff or other medical care providers.

Consequence of Decisions - Service/treatment decisions affect the physical, social, and emotional health of client and contacts.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Contacts are with local health department, regional, and state personnel affiliated with the program, clients and private citizens from all socioeconomic levels, and other professional and technical health workers.

Nature and Purpose - Employees work with clients and their contacts, private physicians, laboratory personnel, and the general public to obtain epidemiologic information, refer for medical examination and treatment, provide risk reduction education and provide program assistance and consultation.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Considerable time is spent traveling to community health facilities and schools, and involves visits in clients homes and other community locations.

Hazards -Employees may experience exposure to hazards in their fieldwork: driving, clinic settings, home environments, and inclement weather.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skill, and Abilities - Basic knowledge of communicable diseases, their symptoms, complications, and epidemiology; working knowledge of principles and practices of specific investigative methods, interviewing and supportive counseling techniques; ability to establish rapport and effective communications with clients, family members, and others involved; ability to interpret and apply federal, state, and local public health laws, rules, and regulations which are applicable to communicable diseases; ability to express ideas clearly and concisely in oral or written form; ability to plan and execute work.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - Graduation from a four-year college or university preferably with a degree in human services or science and two years experience as a Community Disease Control Specialist I; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Administering the Class - Employees with one year of experience as a Public Health Disease Control Specialist Trainee may be hired at entry for the class.

Special Note: This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA.