

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE I

Definition

Under direct supervision, provides public health nursing services in homes, community, schools and clinics; and performs other related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Public Health Nurse I is the entry-level classification in the Public Health Nurse classification series. Incumbents learn to provide basic public health nursing services, which broadens in scope and variety as training is received. The Public Health Nurse I is distinguished from the Public Health Nurse II by the latter's lead responsibilities and ability to serve as a program specialist.

Promotion to Public Health Nurse II is made on a merit basis subject to the recommendation of the Department Head.

Essential Functions

- Provides health promotion and disease prevention services to individuals and families, in a variety of settings, appropriate to client age, development, risk, geographic location, and culture.
- Establishes baseline data for evaluating health care services.
- Assists individuals and families in implementing medical treatment plans.
- Provides case management services to assigned caseload.
- Coordinates public health nursing activities and collaborates with those of other health oriented agencies and groups in the community.
- Provides health care coordination for individuals and families through referral, collaboration, and liaison activities with local service providers and community agencies or organizations.
- Assists in providing clinical experience for nursing students.
- Conducts outreach and case finding in assigned geographic communities.
- Responds to inquiries made by the public and local provider network regarding current public health information and practice.
- Maintains required records and prepares reports.

Other Functions

- Provides nurse home visitation services to assigned caseload.
- Assists in communicable diseases control by carrying out epidemiological surveillance and investigations, follow-up of cases and contacts and gives instruction in preventive measures.
- May provide nursing assessment, education and counseling for individuals such as high risk maternal, infants and adolescents in health situations.
- May manage and provide nursing services in public health clinics.

- May provide health services to the community as directed during a local, state, or federal emergency or disaster.
- Performs other related duties as required.

Employment Standards

Valid Public Health Nurse Certificate issued by the State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Registered Nursing AND valid and unrestricted Registered Nurse License issued by the State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Registered Nursing.

OR

A valid and unrestricted Registered Nurse license issued by the State of California, Department Consumer Affairs, Board of Registered Nursing and possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from an accredited college or university with coursework in public health or community health and application has been submitted to the State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Registered Nursing for a Public Health Nurse Certificate.

Possess and maintain a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support (BLS) card.

Failure to maintain a valid Registered Nurse License issued by the State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Registered Nursing will result in termination.

Possession of a valid Motor Vehicle Driver's License.

Knowledge of: public health nursing principles and practices; health inequalities and disparities, social determinants, control and care of communicable diseases, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases; maternal and child health, chronic disease prevention, and school health and nutrition.

Ability to: interpret the public health program; understand and comply with patient confidentiality requirements; work collaboratively with multidisciplinary team; establish and maintain effective public relations and work relationships; demonstrate basic administrative skills, including but not limited to, scheduling appointments, documentation, write clear and concise reports, and operate a personal computer and associated software.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated “Disaster Service Workers” through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report to work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.