

SOCIAL WORKER (Public Health)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position exists in the Public Health Nursing Department and involves responsibility for providing social work services to patients and families having difficulty in social functioning primarily as it affects their health. The incumbent develops and implements social work treatment plans and makes referrals to other social agencies as appropriate. General supervision is received from a Supervising Public Health Nurse. The incumbent does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Provides social work services, where appropriate, to individuals and families receiving nursing or other services from the agency;
- Prepares social histories to aid in determining the level of agency services;
- Analyzes family relationships, the meaning of the illness to the patient and family, cultural attitudes in relationship to the illness, the meaning of home to the patient, the ability of the patient and his family to adjust to the patient at home and the financial impact of the illness for preparation of social histories;
- Develops social work treatment plan based on assessment of social needs of patient;
- Assess, when appropriate, a family's financial situation taking into consideration patient's prognosis and medical needs, referring to any agency for financial assistance when indicated, and facilitating the process of referral;
- Participates in agency case conferences identifying social problems, their severity, and their interrelatedness to the medical situation, as well as assessing a family's strengths and weaknesses and discussing alternate methods of alleviating the situation;
- Refers patients and families to community agencies;
- Keeps records and a resume of services being provided to serve in evaluating and planning the total program of the agency.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the practices and procedures of social work and of the social and psychological factors related to diseases and disability; good knowledge of the principles and practices of public health administration; ability to counsel the individuals and their families who are being served by the agency; ability to function as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team; ability to prepare records and reports related to social service activities; ability to utilize community resources effectively to meet individual and family social service needs; ability to confer with and provide social service consultations to other health care professionals; sympathetic attitude toward the sick and disabled; tact; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of a master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council of Social Work Education and New York State Education Department and current certification or limited permit to practice social work in New York State issued by the State Education Department.

Competitive Class

Adopted CSC 12/20/1988