

COUNTY OF SOLANO

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITIONIST

Rev. 10/05

DEFINITION

Provides nutritional consultative services to clients with diet related medical diagnosis and/or plans coordinates or implements and evaluates a program of nutrition education services for a target population.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This entry/journey level classification is characterized by the responsibility for providing direct nutrition services for Health and Social Services Department patients participating in various programs. Incumbents initially work under general supervision, progressing to direction as the incumbent becomes able to independently formulate nutrition education plans, consulting with medical providers and developing strategies for reaching a high-risk population. The class is distinguished from Public Health Nutritionist (Supervising) by the latter's responsibility to provide supervision to professionals and support staff within the Nutrition Services Bureau.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives direction from the Public Health Nutritionist (Supervising)

May oversee the activities of the work unit in the absence of the supervisor

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES *-Duties may include but are not limited to the following:*

Conducts nutritional assessments on individuals and families using anthropometric, biochemical, clinical and dietary information and develops an individualized nutrition care plan as the basis for counseling; counsels medically high-risk clients on nutritional needs and dietary modifications with consideration given to the physical, financial, social, emotional and cultural needs and preferences of the individual and family; evaluates the effectiveness of nutritional care and revises the care plan as necessary; refers clients to appropriate community, health and social services resources.

Provides nutrition consultation and technical assistance to professionals in County departments and community agencies; interprets and disseminates current information regarding food, nutrition, diet and health to health care professionals and paraprofessionals.

Develops and disseminates nutrition education reports, bulletins, news releases and radio public service announcements; contacts private industry and community agencies to promote and provide assistance on nutrition education programs; inputs and analyzes data.

Develops and implements various health and nutrition related programs; performs program planning development, marketing and evaluation; plans and implements related classes and materials; provides outreach for program participants; markets programs to community and department clients; coordinates special events and speaking engagements regarding program topics.

Plans, implements, and evaluates nutrition grants; conducts needs assessments; develops strategies and materials to implements the grant; implements strategies utilizing appropriate evaluation techniques; generates progress reports; ensures compliance with grant requirements.

Maintains professional knowledge in applicable areas and keeps abreast of changes in job-related rules, statutes, laws and trends; makes recommendations for the implementation of changes; reads and interprets professional literature; attends training programs, workshops and seminars as appropriate.

JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Nutrition assessment based on individual needs, special food requirements and specific medical conditions.

Principles and methodology of research, statistical analysis, nutrition investigations and dietary studies.

Techniques for educating/training the principles of nutrition and its applicability to phases of public health programs.

Principles of social marketing and use of media for outreach.

Principles, practices, methods, procedures related to nutrition.

Case management and coordination.

Environmental, sociological, cultural and biological factors influencing food practices.

Nutrition and its role in dietary control of disease in public health programs.

Principles of planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs.

Community health organizations, resources and current social and economic problems related to public health nutrition.

Principles of institutional management related to group feeding, food safety and sanitation.

Child neglect and abuse laws and reporting requirements.

Skills to:

Utilize basic office equipment including computers.

Ability to:

Provide effective consultation and technical assistance.

Analyze menus and diets for nutritional adequacy.

Reason logically and creatively.

Analyze situation accurately and take effective actions; demonstrate flexibility in solving problems; develop and evaluate alternatives.

Develop and utilize available resources.

Develop, implement and evaluate nutrition programs.

Conduct presentations, conferences, workshops and training programs.

Maintain confidentiality of information.

Perform statistical analysis using computer programs; calculate nutritional needs.

Communicate clearly and concisely with people of diverse socio-economic backgrounds and temperaments, both orally and in writing; speak effectively in giving public presentations; prepare reports.

Establish, maintain, and foster positive and harmonious working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Experience and Education/Training

Experience:

One year of public health nutrition assessment and counseling as a nutritionist in a public agency.

Education/Training:

Bachelor's degree is required from an accredited college or university, preferably in Nutrition, Dietetics or related field. Successful completion of an American Dietetics Association accredited internship. A Masters degree in Nutrition, Dietetics or related field is desirable.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Incumbents must be Registered Dietitian Eligible and must obtain certification as a Registered Dietitian issued by the American Dietetic Association as a condition of passing probation.

Selectees for employment must, as a condition of employment, sign a statement agreeing to comply with Section 11166 of the California Penal Code relating to child abuse reporting.

Possession of or ability to obtain a Class C California driver's license may be required.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

ADA COMPLIANCE

Physical Ability: Tasks involve the ability to exert light physical effort in sedentary to light work, but which may involve some lifting, carrying, pushing and/or pulling of objects and materials of light weight (5-10 pounds). Tasks may involve extended periods of time at a keyboard or workstation.

Sensory Requirements: Some tasks require visual perception and discrimination. Some tasks require oral communications ability.

Environmental Factors: Tasks may risk exposure to adverse environmental conditions, such as dirt, dust, pollen, odors, fumes, violence, disease, pathogenic substances, and traffic hazards.

YOLANDA IRIGON
Director of Human Resources

BOS Date: June 30, 2003
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