

Disease Intervention Specialist

DEFINITION

Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) functions as part of a disease investigation and intervention team. The DIS plans and participates in programs related to the control of various communicable diseases, specifically sexually transmitted infections. Under the general supervision of a Public Health Supervisor and the professional oversight of Public Health Nurses, employees in this class are responsible for following up on sexually transmitted infections (STI) and other communicable diseases.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Locating disease sources, carriers and at-risk groups to prevent, treat and thereby reduce the incidence and risk to citizens; providing counseling to patients diagnosed positive for a communicable disease, and to provide information on disease etiology and the prevention of communicable diseases. Provide outreach, education, counseling, and testing services for individuals and groups at high risk for HIV/AIDS infection. Provide outreach, education, and counseling for individuals and groups at high risk for other STI's. Participate in the identification of individuals and groups in the community at high risk for HIV/AIDS and infection and other STI's; and actively participate in the development of targeted outreach services. Provide direct counseling services to individuals at risk and refer clients to related social service agencies as appropriate. Develop and maintain related databases, reports and records. Maintain strict confidentiality and HIPAA standards.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience:

High School Diploma, or equivalent. Minimum of four years of public health or other experience that includes extensive HIV/STI work or other related areas (substance abuse treatment and prevention, mental health, medical counseling, etc.). Experience providing counseling and education to adults and teens. Experience working with diverse populations (including MSM and trans communities, people of color, etc). Experience as an effective member of a work team.

Certifications: State mandated HIV and STI trainings within 6 months of hire.

Licenses: Must have a valid driver's license, or access to reliable personal transportation, or equivalent. Employees are required, as a condition of employment, to be current and remain current with certain immunizations and vaccinations. A list will be provided upon hire.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Ability to effectively outreach, educate, and counsel at-risk individuals about disease prevention, specifically regarding sexual practices, drug use, and other measures. Strong knowledge of communicable disease etiology, manifestation, progression, diagnosis, and treatment. Familiarity with the CDC STI treatment guidelines. Working knowledge of the referral criteria for mental health, drug treatment, social services, health, and advocacy agencies in the community. Ability to be an effective member of a work team. Strong computer skills and experience working with an online data management system (like WEDSS or WIR). Ability to work with and around blood-borne pathogens and infectious diseases. Knowledge about HIPAA laws and how to apply them in practice.

Special Requirements:

Possession of a valid driver's license.

Dane County is an Affirmative Action Employer operating under a civil service merit system

H:PERSONNL\CLS-SPEC\DIS.SPEC.DOC(2016-9)