

GENERAL NUTRITIONIST

NATURE OF WORK

This is para-professional work providing general nutritional services to clients of the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program within the Health Department.

Work involves developing, coordinating and implementing nutritional education plans for individuals and specific groups on special diets or with special nutritional needs. Work also involves interviewing, documenting and performing functional assessments of client's nutritional intake, developing individualized nutritional plans and referring individuals with significant nutritional inadequacies or problems to appropriate health professionals. An employee within this class is expected to exercise independent judgment with work decisions made in accordance with established departmental policies and procedures. General supervision is received from a professional or administrative superior with work reviewed in the form of reports, charts, conferences, client feedback and results achieved.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Assists with the development, coordination and implementation of nutritional education plans for individuals and specific groups on special diets or with special nutritional needs for the purpose of health promotion and disease control; assists other nutritional staff in implementing the department's in-house education plan.

Interviews and performs functional assessments of client's nutritional intake; obtains physical measurements of clients to assess nutritional status; documents client information and maintains client records.

Analyzes client information and develops individualized nutritional plans based on normal nutritional requirements, financial status and available community resources; refers individuals with significant nutritional inadequacies or problems to appropriate health professionals.

Assists in the development and implementation of educational materials and pamphlets for use by professional and allied health workers from local agencies, departmental staff and public education sources; communicates and collaborates with other nutritional and health professionals with regard to specific client issues, nutritional program services and alternate community resources; participates in assigned task forces or work groups pertaining to general nutrition services, client education and continuity of nutrition education throughout the community.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Knowledge of current dietetic nutritional guidelines, principles and practices.

Knowledge of pediatric and maternal nutrition.

Some knowledge of Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program policies and Federal and State guidelines.

Ability to accurately assess and document the nutritional status of clients given physical and functional measurements, diet history and physical characteristics.

Ability to maintain accurate client records.

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, clients, community agency representatives and the general public.

Ability to incorporate effective teaching methods during individual and group educational sessions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in human nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics or related field or any equivalent combination of training and experience that provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT

Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license.

Must have twelve (12) hours of coursework in nutrition from an accredited college as per the Nebraska WIC Procedure Manual.

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