MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER I

Definition

Under supervision, to plan and implement medical social service delivery programs in clinical service areas; to perform responsible medical social work for patients at Kern Medical Center and the Department of Public Health Services and for their families; and to do related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Medical Social Worker I is the first level of the Medical Social Worker series. This class is distinguished from the next higher class of Medical Social Worker II primarily by the amount of direction and assistance they receive in their work. Incumbents who meet the minimum qualification for Medical Social Worker II are eligible to be considered for promotion on a merit basis subject to recommendation of the Department Head and approval of the Director of Personnel.

Essential Functions

Dependent upon assignment:

• Functions at a highly skilled level in such areas as counseling, medical social work, protective services, family services, community organization and research

• Interviews and counsels patients and relatives in order to determine appropriateness of services, to determine extent of social and emotional problems, and to plan for patient’s illness and related problems

• Evaluates problems and makes treatment plans; provides casework and group work treatment for patients

• Interprets diagnoses and prognoses to patients and their families to insure best adjustment to treatment and/or medical condition

• Counsels patients on rehabilitation and employment programs

• Performs assessments and provides information for use in diagnosis and treatment

• Participates in research projects, mental health educational programs, treatment intervention and assists in discharge transition
**Essential Functions** (continued)

- Observes effects of current policies and informs supervisor of gaps in the program

- Participates in conferences, meetings and committees

- Cooperates with other agencies to insure adequate resources to assist in the patient's maximum level of functioning and adjustment

- Evaluates patient's community behavior and assists in determining need for further treatment

- Arranges for follow-up care

- Prepares case records, reports, and correspondence

- Develops the cultural competency program in the internal medicine department

- Develops professional interviewing skills for residents of the internal medicine department

- Dependent upon area of practice or department assignments, demonstrates clinical knowledge and skill in the care of the newborn, infant, toddler, child, adolescent, adult and geriatric patient ranging up to 100+ years of age.

**Employment Standards**

Positions assigned to Kern Medical Center require possession and maintenance of a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support (BLS) card. Appointees not possessing the BLS card must successfully complete appropriate training and qualify for the BLS card within 60 days of appointment.

**OPTION 1:** Requires a Master's degree from an accredited School of Social Work. Incumbents will be assigned to Kern Medical Center and are required to have an M.S.W as required by state and accrediting agencies. Experience in a health care facility, psychiatric clinic, or family counseling service is desirable.

**OPTION 2:** Requires a Master's degree from an accredited School of Social Work, or a Master's degree in one of the related health sciences, including Counseling and Guidance, Psychology, or Public Health. Experience in a health care facility, psychiatric clinic, or family counseling service is desirable.
**OPTION 3:** Requires a Master's degree in Social Work or Social Welfare from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or a Master's degree in Psychology or Marriage, Family and Child Counseling. One (1) year of experience in the field of Maternal and Child Health is preferred. Incumbents will be assigned to the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program at the Department of Public Health Services.

Knowledge of the principles, procedures, techniques, trends and literature of social work; knowledge of social, emotional, behavioral, and economic implications of illness, disease, incapacitation, and disfigurement; knowledge of modern hospital organization and functions; knowledge of general laws relating to health and welfare; ability to evaluate information and form logical and sound conclusions; ability to prepare reports and case records; ability to maintain effective and cooperative relationships with professional personnel, patients and community agencies; ability to interview and obtain accurate personal and psycho-social data for records.

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