

JOB DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM: STEP Office of Aging
JOB TITLE: Care Manager/Assessor I
CLASSIFICATION: Caseworker I
PAY GRADE: 9

JOB SUMMARY

This entry-level position provides assessment and care management services to arrange in-home services for senior citizens with disabilities and support to family caregivers and other services to enable senior citizens to remain independent or assist them in choosing and entering an appropriate facility to care for them. Position develops care plans through an evaluation of the senior citizen's social contacts and supports, their activities of daily living, status of their cognitive functioning, their physical health and their economic and other resources. Work is carried out according to established practices, procedures and precedents, but may require some independent judgment; advice is sought or provided with situations that are more difficult.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS

REPORTS TO: County Social Service Director
SUPERVISES: Not Applicable

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in social work with one year experience in public or private social work that involves comprehensive and/or psychosocial assessments is preferred; at minimum, bachelor's degree in a related area with the one year of experience described above, or a licensed Registered Nurse with one year of experience, preferably involving home health services, or in a program performing comprehensive functional and/or psychosocial assessments, or any combination of education and experience sufficient to demonstrate possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities, including successful completion of 12 semester hours of college level courses in sociology, social welfare, psychology, gerontology, or other related social sciences.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- One year of experience with both operating personal computer hardware within a networked environments and Microsoft Office products including Word, Access and Excel;
- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance and the ability to be bonded;
- Ability to travel out-of-town and overnight for Program purposes;
- Valid driver's license and an insured vehicle available daily or other arrangements for transportation in order to fulfill job duties; and,
- Clear speaking voice and the mental and physical ability to perform essential job functions without any health restrictions, including the ability to sit, stand, climb stairs and safely lift and carry twenty pounds unassisted, have unrestricted use of the upper body, and corrected or uncorrected hearing and vision within normal ranges and the ability to access handicapped-inaccessible residences.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

- ❖ Provides care management according to the Aging Policy and Procedure Manual (APPM) for customers needing home delivered meals, personal care, consumer reimbursement, home

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support, home health, the Family Caregiver Support Program, overnight shelter, and some environmental modifications; care management is also provided for complex or difficult cases, customer with an increasing level of dependency making it difficult to live alone and those with other problems as appropriate; care management includes the assessment process described below, preparation of a written care plan in cooperation with the customer, implementation of the care plan and referral process, follow-up, reassessment, on-going care management, on-going case recording and termination;

- ❖ Performs assessments of customers according to the APPM using the Level of Care Determination Assessment (LCD) to determine if customer is nursing facility clinically eligible (NFCE) or ineligible and their needs; completes Decision Narrative and refers to County Assistance Office to determine financial eligibility if NFCE; refers to Aging Waiver Program or Albright Life if the customer appears to be eligible; performs LCD for applicants for DPW payment for a nursing facility stay and for a personal care home resident applying for a DPW supplement; LCD certification must be achieved during initial employment period;
- ❖ Completes all required and requested documentation in the SAMS/OMNIA computer data base;
- ❖ Provides customers a choice of providers to provide personal care, home support and home health;
- ❖ Calculates cost of care plan and determines each customer's cost share amount; explains cost share regulations to customers; contacts customers that are delinquent on cost share payments to attempt to resolve payment problems;
- ❖ Provides customers with the opportunity to donate for services rendered;
- ❖ Provides services of Family Caregiver Support Program including the assessment process described above for the care receiver and evaluates the needs of the caregiver and care giving environment, development of a care plan and reimbursement agreement, benefits counseling, referring for caregiver training and education as necessary; reviews reimbursement forms for compliance with plan and agreement; calculates the reimbursement amount and submits for review; this involves working with caregivers under 60 years of age;
- ❖ Informs customers of the appeal process regarding disagreements with the care plan;
- ❖ Receives reports of need for protective services; completes Report of Need for Protective Service and notifies a supervisor immediately in order for the Report to be assigned;
- ❖ Makes initial face to face contact with elderly individuals to explain services, screens for needs, and arranges for referral of individuals found to be in need of Office of Aging services or other resources such as, but not limited to, Social Security, County Assistance Office, and public housing;
- ❖ Completes necessary forms to obtain Office of Aging services and completes or aids in completing forms for other services and benefits such as, but not limited to, Medicare, rent rebate, PACE, and Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Programs;
- ❖ Provides information and referral services; explains which agencies the customer should contact or personally refers the inquiries to the appropriate agency;
- ❖ As assigned or scheduled, provides office coverage and maintains availability to assist walk-in customers, answer the telephone and receive/write referrals for services;
- ❖ Consults with supervisor about cases, care plans and customer assessments;
- ❖ Assists customers with budgeting and bill paying activities;
- ❖ Assists customers to locate and move into adequate housing, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and personal care homes, using a standardized DPW screening instrument for placements within personal care homes as requested;

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- ❖ Provides personal advocacy for customers to assist in resolving problems;
- ❖ Assists customers to improve problem solving and/or coping skills;
- ❖ Provides transportation and escorts customers to medical facilities and social service agencies, when appropriate;
- ❖ Attends training sessions as assigned and shares information with staff as assigned;
- ❖ Completes Program's monthly reports and daily logs as requested in the regulations;
- ❖ Implements all Pennsylvania Department of Aging Directives and all STEP and Program policies and procedures as they apply;
- ❖ Complies with applicable Federal, State and Local laws and regulations;
- ❖ Provides customers with the opportunity to donate for services rendered; and,
- ❖ Performs related work as required.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES

- ❖ Knowledge of the following:
 - Effective customer service principles;
 - Microsoft Office Suite, including but not limited to Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Power Point and Publisher components;
 - Professional social casework principles, practices and methodologies;
 - Individual, group and family behavior and ways of working effectively with the elderly and disabled;
 - Current and economic, social and health problems of the elderly and disabled;
 - Mental health conditions and dementias that afflict the elderly and the mental health services system; and,
 - Civil and criminal court proceedings.
- ❖ Skills in the following:
 - Writing, editing and communicating, including knowledge of English grammar, spelling and punctuation as they would relate to the production of reports, care plans, and other operational documents, as well as their use in communicating with a variety of individuals and groups;
 - Using a keyboard and personal computer; and,
 - Oral communication, such as speaking, listening and interviewing, to express ideas clearly and to interact with customers, co-workers, management, outside agencies and the public effectively.
- ❖ Ability to perform the following:
 - Comprehensive assessments, including psychosocial information;
 - Determine the appropriate level and locus of care and justify the determination in a written narrative;
 - Develop and write care plans based on the comprehensive assessment;
 - Work effectively with people and aid them to grow in the constructive utilization of their capabilities and in adjusting to their specific problems;
 - Organize and plan work;
 - Arithmetic calculations sufficient to complete income eligibility forms and cost of service and cost share calculations;
 - Communicate with law enforcement, attorneys, judges and district justices;
 - A Mini Mental Status Exam;
 - Evaluate a person's decision making capacity;
 - Evaluate the safety of living arrangements and housing;
 - Recognize situations that indicate an older adult is at imminent risk of death or serious

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- physical harm;
- Be creative, resourceful and flexible;
- Collect, organize, analyze and process information accurately, quickly and efficiently;
- Identify and meet goals, objectives, outcomes and timelines within broad parameters;
- Demonstrate respect for individuals and groups with varied cultural, racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic identities or backgrounds;
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, administrators, partnering agencies, elected officials, government agencies, businesses, customers and the general public;
- Analyze, evaluate and recommend action on customer needs;
- Understand and accept the needs and rights of others, and to effectively communicate with customers;
- Work independently, as well as within a team;
- Speak to groups of varied socio-economic backgrounds;
- Plan and organize work, prepare adequate records and reports, set priorities, and maintain a caseload in an effective and timely manner;
- Think creatively and to work cooperatively with supportive staff and outside agencies to promote and improve senior citizen services;
- Interpret written and oral information; and,
- Project a positive image.