

County Health Officer

DEFINITION

Under administrative direction, to uphold State and local public health laws; to provide guidance in controlling and preventing the spread of communicable disease, and reducing chronic disease and injury in Glenn County; and to perform related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This single position management class is designated as the "County Health Officer" as enumerated in California Health and Safety Code, sections 101000-101300. This position maintains primary responsibility for public health laws in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County of Glenn. This position is an unrepresented, at will position.

SUPERVISION

The County Health Officer is supervised by the Director of the Health and Human Services Agency.

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

- Follows and upholds federal, state and local public health laws;
- Develops and maintains knowledge of current and pending issues in public health, and makes recommendations designed to protect and promote the public's health accordingly;
- Consults on public health activities such as: public health laboratory services, communicable disease control including sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis, immunization services, community health planning, school health services, public health education, maternal/adolescent and child health services, and the analysis and communication of health statistics and other community health assessments.
- Assists in the evaluation of public health programs and activities; encourages the Department's orientation toward population-based public health and community health outcomes;
- Consults with physicians in the diagnosis, management and investigation of cases of suspected or confirmed communicable disease;
- Recommends measures to control spread of infectious disease and prevent epidemics, and to control chronic diseases and injuries;
- Cooperates with federal and state public health groups in the enforcement of health and sanitation measures; interprets statistical or medical information to public health staff, interested individuals and groups; performs liaison role to the local medical community and represents Glenn County in State and/or national health officer groups and associations;

- Recommends public health policy options to the Director Health and Human Services Agency and others;
- Works to increase access to public health services for hard-to-reach populations, and works toward increasing the cultural competency of staff and the Public Health Department as an organization;
- Attends meetings and represents the department as directed; provides input to program performance review;
- Provides recommendations for long-range public health strategic planning, or goals and objectives;
- May conduct various public health-related clinics; reviews the work of medical extender staff and laboratory and x-ray findings;
- Responsible for the development of medically oriented policies, procedures and protocols and ensuring their approval, maintenance and adherence;
- Reviews medical incident reports and recommends changes in procedure if necessary;
- Serves as the Operational Area Disaster Medical Health Coordinator, and oversees the medical response of the department in the case of local disaster; prepares regular and special reports and correspondence.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Any combination of education and experience sufficient to directly demonstrate possession and application of the following:

Knowledge of: medical science and its application to public health; Federal, State and local laws governing public health work; principles, practices and terminology of modern medicine, especially preventive medicine, and public health; medical ethics and confidentiality laws and regulations; accepted clinical practices; epidemiology and biostatistics and their interpretation; public health resources at the local, State and federal levels; health policy development; and program evaluation.

Ability to:

- Apply principles and techniques of modern medicine and public health;
- Establish and maintain good working relationships with staff and medical personnel, officials, and the local community; analyze disaster or emergency situations and take prompt and appropriate action; Demonstrate leadership skills to improve the public's health; analyze and evaluate data, draw conclusions and make recommendations;

- Exercise independent judgement; provide clinical oversight and training to medical provider staff;
- Communicate technical information to persons with varying degrees of medical knowledge;
- Accurately perform public health-related medical diagnosis and treatment;
- Develop clear and comprehensive written reports;
- Use automated systems and other appropriate sources of public health information;
- Assist in the evaluation of public health programs;
- Write effective procedures, protocols and policies for public health-related clinical services provision;
- Speak and write effectively.

These standards are typically attained with:

1. A) Five years of experience as a physician and surgeon, licensed in the State of California;

AND

B) Certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine; or certification by the American Boards of Family Practice, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, or Internal Medicine;

AND/OR

2. A) Two-years of experience as a Public Health Officer, preferably in California, (a physician certified in a state other than California may be employed prior to receipt of California certification provided that an application for a California Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is filed with the State of California prior to date of appointment, and is received within six months of employment);

AND

B) Certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine; or certification by the American Boards of Family Practice, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, or Internal Medicine.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Working conditions are various clinic settings; full manual dexterity and visual acuity required.
- Work involves the potential for exposure to hostile situations and infectious diseases; some non-standard work hours are required.
- Must work with a clinically challenging client population; must be able to read and respond to subtle behavioral clues, and maintain professional composure and effectiveness.