DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

The work involves responsibility for performing professional dental public health work in a local public health department. The work involves responsibility for assisting in the planning, developing and performing of dental public health educational, preventive and treatment programs within the community. Occasionally, a Public Health Dental Hygienist I may be required to oversee the work of subordinate paraprofessionals, dental hygiene students or clerical employees. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES

Utilizes curriculum guides to develop effective, cognitive, behavioral objectives and then develops appropriate lesson plans for presentations to pre−schoolers through adults. Develops and utilizes a variety of evaluation tools to test the progress of movement toward the goals of the dental program. Arranges for special in−service training for school health and teaching personnel, preschool teachers and aides, etc. Develops new materials for use in dental health programs. Disseminates dental health information and literature to the public. Uses audio−visual materials for instructional purposes in dental health presentations in schools and community groups. Organizes and works with community groups and directs educational efforts to influence public attitudes and behavior with regard to given dental health needs. Assists in the planning and direction of workshops and discussion groups to promote dental public health. Participates in inter−agency discussions/planning, evaluations and conferences to discuss dental aspects of health and medical care programs. Participates in dental public health surveys and research studies within the community. Assists in planning and conducting dental public health activities and field experiences for student dental hygienists. Performs oral examinations, evaluates oral conditions of children and refers patients for corrective dental care. Responsible for follow−up on all cases referred for further dental treatment. Counsels adults and children regarding necessity of regular preventive care, sources of care within the community, areas where financial assistance for dental care may be obtained. Works with various public and private agencies within the community while implementing dental health programs and projects. Functions as a community dental health resource and dental health consultant. Provides dental prophylaxis and other oral hygiene measures, including instruction in home care of the mouth. Applies caries preventive measures such as topical application of fluorides and placement of dental sealants. Advises the public on their dental health status. Prepares correspondence and various dental reports as required. Participates in public health preparedness activities as trained and assigned.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL
CHARACTERISTICS

Good knowledge of the principles and practices of dental hygiene.
Good knowledge of the social sciences, including psychology and sociology.
Good knowledge of the basic principles, practices and techniques of dental health education.
Skill in educational techniques and methods of communication.
Ability to establish and maintain effective interpersonal relationships.
Ability to use audio–visual equipment.
Ability to prepare and maintain dental records, charts and reports.
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

A. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor’s degree in public health, health education, or a health related field;* or,

B. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associates degree in Dental Hygiene and two (2) years of work experience, or its part–time equivalent, in a dental office providing prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, dental sealants and patient education; or,

C. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of A and B.

SPECIAL NECESSARY REQUIREMENT

Possession of a license and current registration to practice dental hygiene in New York State as authorized by the New York State Department of Education at time of appointment.

NOTE:
*Health related field includes the following: health promotion, human services, nursing, epidemiology or health education

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