



EAST SHORE DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Bringing good health to the towns of Branford, East Haven and North Branford

East Shore District Health Department Position Description FT Overdose Prevention Navigator

Location:	East Shore District Health Department, 688 East Main Street, Branford, CT
Reports to:	Project Coordinator/Public Health Nurse Supervisor
Position Status:	Full-Time 40hrs/week

General Statement

The overdose prevention navigator performs the necessary duties, including but not limited to linking people who have substance use disorders to support services, decreasing stigma and promoting treatment uptake, addressing social determinants and needs of at-risk and impacted populations, and increasing access to medications for opioid use disorder including naloxone across diverse settings. A varied schedule may be required, including nights and weekends and travel as necessary.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Conducts street outreach to people who use drugs to link individuals to support services. Helps clients access medical and non-medical resources, including medical care, substance use treatment programs, housing programs, food services, etc.
- Develops relationships with local service providers and makes referrals.
- Provides harm reduction supplies and trainings to people who use drugs.
- Reviews and analyzes health data to identify individuals who have experienced an opioid overdose.
- Conducts trainings on overdose prevention, stigma, and naloxone administration for community members, organizations/businesses (e.g., local substance use treatment providers, social services agencies, emergency departments, schools, and faith-based organizations), and public safety agencies.
- Coordinates with partner agencies to conduct outreach to their clients.
- Trains medical providers and pharmacists on best practices related to pain opioid prescribing.
- Supports the development of communications materials and social media posts to educate the public.
- Collects data and produces relevant reports.
- Participates in meetings, coalitions, and workgroups as assigned.
- Handles inventory of outreach project materials, equipment, and supplies.
- Maintains confidentiality and complies with HIPAA regulations.
- Performs other related duties, as needed.

***NOTE:** The above description covers the principal duties and responsibilities of the job and shall not be construed as a complete listing of all duties or as a contract.*

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Knowledge, Skill, and Ability

May perform a full range of overdose prevention strategies as outlined below:

1. Ability to communicate effectively in a professional manner, both verbally and in writing. Bilingual (English/Spanish) is strongly preferred.
2. Ability to work cooperatively and establish effective working relationships with other staff members, community organizations, and the public.
3. Self-motivated, organized; able to work independently and as part of a team.
4. Strong time management skills including organization, prioritization, and multitasking.
5. Ability to interact in a non-judgmental manner with culturally diverse populations and persons experiencing a wide range of social conditions.
6. Ability to use discretion, maintain confidentiality, and maintain ethical standards.
7. Ability to develop concise records and prepare reports.
8. Proficiency in the use of computers, including data entry, database management, Word, Excel, and similar programs.
9. Knowledge of the principles, practices, and regulations applied in public health as well as current developments in the fields of community health and overdose prevention.
10. Common knowledge of the cause, transmission, and prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Distinguishing Characteristics/Necessary Special Requirements

- Work with the Project Coordinator to plan, develop, and administer programs designed to build relationships with people who use drugs (PWUD) and help them connect with care and services.
- Flexibility with scheduling, including work schedule modifications and on-call as necessary. Hours will include evenings/weekends/early morning hours.
- Possession of, and ability to maintain, a valid Connecticut Driver's license and own transportation. Frequent in-state travel is required.
- Navigators must conduct outreach in areas and communities with high concentrations of people who use drugs, and link patients to treatment and other care options.
- Prepare and distribute educational materials, including pamphlets, articles, and resource cards.

Communication Skills

- Ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions.
- Ability to prepare accurate and concise reports.
- Ability to communicate in a respectful manner both written and orally, in person, and through electronic means, with linguistic and cultural proficiency.
- Act tactfully with the public.
- Speak in front of groups of people.
- Effectively communicate with individuals representing all ages, races, gender... orally and in writing.

Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills

- Advocates for individual, team, and organizational learning opportunities within the organization.
- Contributes to the development of a vision for a healthy community.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships as a team player.

Policy Development/Program Planning Skills

- Implements plans and programs consistent with policies.
- Implements strategies for continuous quality improvement.
- Collaborates in and contributes to individual, team, and Departmental performance management, quality improvement, and evaluation activities.

Cultural Competency Skills

- Ability to work with diverse people and cultures within the community.

- Interacts with clients, community partners, and coworkers with fairness and equity and delivers services free of bias or prejudice.
- Ensures the health and safety of the community and treats diverse customers with thoughtful listening and respect.

Community Dimensions of Practice Skills

- Ability to develop cooperative relationships with state and local partners, businesses, and the public.
- Establish and maintain reference files and records. Knowledge of techniques of collecting and analyzing data.

Minimum Qualifications:

Possession of an Associate's Degree in Public Health, Social Work, or related field required, a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health, Social Work, or a related field preferred. Bilingual English/Spanish is strongly preferred.

Minimum 2 years of experience working with individuals who have a substance use disorder, mental health challenges, or are experienced in homelessness and the necessary knowledge, abilities, and skills listed below.

We encourage applicants with lived experience in recovery from substance use and/or with familial substance use to apply.

Physical Demands and Working Conditions

- Work is performed in various community settings with travel throughout the district or outside of the district. Must be mobile with the ability to get from location in the office or work site(s) to other locations in and outside from the primary office or work site(s). Ability to reach and bend, and push/pull or lift objects less than twenty (20) pounds. Ability to stand, walk, sit, use hands/fingers/arms, climb or balance, stoop/kneel/crouch/crawl, talk/hear and be exposed to outdoor weather conditions.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please send a letter of interest and a copy of your resume to the East Shore District Health Department at 688 East Main Street, Branford, Connecticut 06405, or email to info@esdhd.org

The pay range for this position is dependent on qualifications. Applications will be taken until this position is filled.

Equal opportunity employer - Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Position Modified November 14, 2023

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