

CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

FAMILY HEALTH DIVISION – LOCATION - 110 KING ST. W., 2nd FLOOR – ROBERT THOMPSON BUILDING)

PUBLIC HEALTH - CHILD HEALTH NUTRITIONIST – CUPE 5167

SUMMARY OF DUTIES

Reporting to the Manager of Child Health, the Public Health - Child Health Nutritionist plans, develops, implements and evaluates nutrition promotion initiatives in keeping with the requirements of the Nutrition Promotion Program Standard under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, (Section 7), Corporate policies and approved budget. Ontario Public Health Standards (2008) direct Public Health activities in the areas of Family Health. The Family Health Child Health Standard identifies the following goal: “to enable all children to attain and sustain optimal health and developmental potential.” The Child Health Program Standard is structured around six key areas: positive parenting; breastfeeding; healthy family dynamics; healthy eating, healthy weights and physical activity; growth and development; and oral health. The Public Health - Child Health Nutritionist will have an understanding of the Child Health Program Standards, will support the Nutrition Resource Team to meet these standards and will function as knowledge broker to Public Health staff and community partners regarding nutrition concepts and initiatives.

This position includes responsibility for project management, including coordination of the Hamilton Prenatal Nutrition Project - Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, and participation in the planning, development and evaluation of programs which have a nutrition focus/component. The position involves extensive community liaison and mobilization, analysis of nutrition issues and recommendation of nutrition policy options, consultation to staff and the community on nutrition promotion strategies and collaboration with other staff in Public Health Services, in the development of integrated nutrition programs. The Public Health – Child Health Nutritionist functions in a self-directed manner within a collaborative team environment and is involved in data collection and situational assessments to direct future program development for healthier food environments. The Public Health – Child Health Nutritionist reviews and utilizes evidence informed decision making as well as applies knowledge regarding concepts of child health (with a focus from 0 – 6 years of age), population health, determinants of health, diversity, health inequity and effective health promotion strategies to guide practice. The Public Health – Child Health Nutritionist stays up-to-date on current credible research on healthy eating trends and the food environment and provides summaries/briefings as appropriate. This position may include the facilitation of classes/groups in the community. Evening or weekend work may be required.

GENERAL DUTIES

Identifies nutrition promotion programming needs by reviewing existing epidemiological, behavioural and socio-demographic data and reports and/or collects and analyzes new data related to food, nutrition and eating habits. Identifies behavioural and non-behavioural factors influencing eating habits and whether various health promotion strategies should increase knowledge, alter attitudes and/or change behaviour.

Provides input to the development of an annual operational plan for the Family Health Division’s Nutrition Program which includes population-based strategies to support nutrition promotion, targeted at specific population groups. Identifies and pursues collaborative opportunities for nutrition promotion that could be delivered by other staff. Also provides budget monitoring support for the Child Health - Nutrition budget.

Collaborates with other members of Family Health on the development, implementation and evaluation of integrated health promotion programs.

Assists child care centres and Affiliated Services for Children and Youth by providing consultation and information on resources available.

Promotes and assists with the development, implementation and evaluation of nutrition promotion programming for workplace and community centres, including collaboration with other members of Family Health on these initiatives.

Liaises with community agencies, coalitions and task groups to facilitate accomplishment of the Nutrition Promotion objectives in the Mandatory Programs and ensures service co-ordination in the community.

Coordinates the Hamilton Prenatal Nutrition Project - Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program. This role requires extensive coordination and collaboration, both internally and with community partners. The coordinator role also requires the ability to complete mandatory Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) qualitative and quantitative reports, ongoing written and verbal communication with the PHAC Consultant, completion of PHAC funding proposal requests and work plans, manager support with HPNP – CPNP budget monitoring, and facilitation of groups, demonstrating current knowledge and skill in adult teaching and learning principles.

Prepares grant proposals for program enhancements and research projects related to nutrition promotion. Oversees specific projects and provides functional supervision for temporary staff hired on projects.

Facilitates the establishment of nutrition promotion policies through advocacy and negotiation with schools, workplaces and area municipalities, writing and presenting resolutions and position papers, research and analysis of policy options, drafting policy recommendations and implementation plans.

Provides expert technical assistance and consultation on nutrition promotion to staff from Public Health Services, other Departments and area municipalities, community agencies and other service professionals. Provides direct educational support/training to Family Health Division staff, serving as knowledge broker regarding nutrition-related concepts, trends and research.

Interprets and conveys current scientific information regarding food, nutrition, diet and health to local professionals, agencies and groups in health, education, social services, recreation and mass media.

Plans, develops, implements and evaluates food and nutrition education workshops, seminars and campaigns.

Develops and maintains public awareness of nutrition promotion strategies through mass media communication, media advocacy and social marketing programs.

Maintains current resource files, including information on existing programs and reference material.

Plans, provides and evaluates field placement experience for undergraduate and graduate students studying in food nutrition programs, dietetic interns and other health related programs.

Participates in university teaching and writing of articles for publication in peer reviewed journals.

May fulfill duties as Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph or other University Nutrition Programs.

Provides Child Health Nutrition Resource support and training as well as facilitation of groups/sessions in the community, meeting the OPHS Child Health Standards, demonstrating knowledge of these standards and Child Health concepts (for children ages 0-6 years of age).

Performs other duties which are directly related to the major responsibilities of the position.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Master's degree in community nutrition in addition to a baccalaureate degree in foods and nutrition or an equivalent course of study. Previous dietetic internship is an asset.
2. Current general registration in good standing with the College of Dietitians of Ontario.
3. Ability to plan, develop, implement and evaluate nutrition promotion initiatives in accordance with the requirements of the Nutrition Promotion Program Standard, Corporate policies and approved budget.

4. Relevant/recent Child Health knowledge, experience and skills, with a focus on children from 0 - 6 years of age, is preferred. Experience should include staff education/training as well as highly effective presentation and group facilitation skills, applying adult teaching and learning principles. Demonstrated ability to synthesize and apply Child Health knowledge and best practice research to develop and implement programs, considering evidence informed decision making.
5. Relevant/recent knowledge and experience in the HPNP – CPNP Coordinator role is preferred, including demonstrated partnership/collaboration skills, experience with qualitative and quantitative PHAC report writing, completion of PHAC funding proposals and work plans, and manager support with HPNP – CPNP budget monitoring. Excellent communication (both written and verbal) and organizational skills is required.
6. Networking/consultation ability and an ability to foster partnerships and collaborate both internally within PHS and with community partners when planning, developing, implementing and evaluating nutrition promotion initiatives and practices.
7. Ability to apply epidemiological principles/strategies such as screening and surveillance to inform program planning and nutrition service delivery to individuals, groups, and populations.
8. Demonstrated ability to design and deliver training programs in a variety of media on nutrition promotion.
9. Demonstrated ability to evaluate field placement experiences for students.
10. Eligibility for academic appointment at the University of Guelph or other University Nutrition Program is an asset.

NOTE:

The successful candidate will be required to provide immunization records, which may include TB testing prior to the start of employment to meet the requirements of the Staff Immunization and Surveillance Policy and Procedure