

AUDIOLOGY SPECIALIST

KIND OF WORK

Professional consulting and diagnostic hearing work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, consults with local community health and education agencies to assist in the development and implementation of hearing assessment programs, conducts comprehensive audiologic evaluations in schools and state residential facilities, recommends appropriate auditory rehabilitation programs; performs related work as required.

This classification differs from the Speech Pathologist, Speech Pathology Specialist and Speech Pathology Clinician classifications in that the primary focus of those classifications is in the design, delivery and evaluation of speech therapy programs for residents in a state institutional setting.

This classification differs from the Audiologist Supervisor classification in that the Audiologist Supervisor classification is responsible for the Department of Health Hearing and Vision Conservation Program's staff supervision, program management and evaluation.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Evaluates hearing assessment services provided by the Department of Health so that future hearing program plans can reflect any changing needs within a community/region by reviewing program summary reports and surveying literature for possible program changes, trends and new technological developments.

Advises and consults with staff of community health agencies and educational facilities so those agencies establish and maintain quality hearing screening programs by reviewing existing programs; providing training workshops on hearing screening, monitoring the quality of hearing screening program services and performing audiometer calibration checks to ensure accurate diagnosis.

Promotes community awareness and understanding of hearing screening programs so that screening program services can be administered to the largest possible population base by participating at health fairs, serving on a variety of local and regional committees and working effectively with Department of Health, Health Promotion and Education staff.

Collaborates with the Community Health Services agencies so that hearing components of special federal or state health screening programs meet standards required by the Minnesota Department of Health by participating in the review of the special program's hearing components to provide current Minnesota State standards expertise; assisting in staff training for local health staff administering the screening; and monitoring the administration of local hearing screening for compliance to the Minnesota Department of Health standards.

Conducts comprehensive audiologic evaluations so that hearing deficiencies can be detected and diagnosed by interviewing clients, performing hearing tests, collecting data from audiometers and other examining equipment, and gathering related speech and communication skill level data.

Recommends appropriate auditory rehabilitation measures/actions so that hearing abilities are improved by accurately assessing the deficiency and incorporating knowledge of available hearing aids which would address the deficiency.

Explains hearing screening results and recommendations to all appropriate parties, (i.e., parents, teachers, speech/language professionals, local health or school district officials, Minnesota Department of Health officials) so that all parties are well informed by collecting all pertinent diagnostic data, providing relevant and current information, and completing assessment forms and distributing to all interested parties.

Monitors proper functioning of amplification devices/equipment on students so that incorrectly functioning equipment problems can be identified and corrected by monitoring the effectiveness of operation of hearing aid devices, and instructing students, teachers, and parents on equipment care and maintenance.

Prepares and maintains case history files so that current data is available to assess and monitor the effectiveness of rehabilitation measures and correct data is available for reporting purposes by recording current detailed information on any case action.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Hearing disorders and their physical and psychological causes and ramifications sufficient to accurately assist in the diagnosis of the disorder and consult with hearing therapists and other health professionals.

Hearing screening equipment, approved techniques, standardized exams and the anatomy, physiology of the ears sufficient to conduct audiologic screenings, test hearing aid devices and calibrate audiometers.

Rehabilitation and therapy procedures sufficient to develop an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Hearing aid technology and earmold acoustics sufficient to recommend appropriate hearing devices and to adjust to proper fit.

Ability to:

Establish an effective working relationship with staff of the Minnesota Department of Health, community health agencies, school officials, health professionals, patients and their families sufficient to assist in hearing screening program development, implement the screening program, conduct the screenings and explain screening results to all affected parties.

Develop or assist in the development of a hearing screening program in a community, school, or state facility sufficient to assess the hearing health of participants, promote maximum client screening participation, maintain budget guidelines and meet program objectives.

Collect, interpret and evaluate hearing screening program data and write reports sufficient to evaluate program effectiveness and accurately report program results/findings and to the Department of Health, school district officials and various committees.

Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing sufficient to relay hearing deficiency findings and rehabilitation program proposals in case history files and to children, parents, school officials, health professionals and health committee groups and to promote public awareness of audiologic issues.

Est.: 03/65
Rev.:
Chkd.: 01/68

TC: 11/93
Former Title(s): Audiologist