POSITION DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Community Health Worker

Reports to: Project Lead

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are lay members of communities who work either for pay or as volunteers in association with the local health care system in both urban and rural environments and usually share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, and life experiences with the community members they serve. CHWs offer interpretation and translation services, provide culturally appropriate health education and information, assist people in receiving the care they need, give informal counseling and guidance on health behaviors, advocate for individual and community health needs, and provide linkages to direct services. (HRSA Community Health Workers National Workforce Study, 2007)

SCDAA-SCDNBSFP Purpose and Scope: The purpose of the Sickle Cell Newborn Screening Program Grant is to 1) Identify and assess the care quality and outcomes of individuals living with SCD in order to assure follow up and referral to medical homes for persons identified through the newborn screening program and across the lifespan, 2) Increase the use of sickle cell CHWs, and health educators in promoting Hydroxyurea and patients as partners in their care and 3) increase the number of partnerships to aid in program delivery and sustainability.

Roles of CHWs:
CHWs’ activities are tailored to meet the unique needs of their communities. Generally, their roles include:

- Cultural mediation
- Informal Counseling and social support
- Providing culturally appropriate health education
- Advocating for individual and community needs
- Assuring that people get the services they need
- Building individuals and community capacity
- Providing linkages to direct services

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Collaborate with hospital partners and CBO counterparts Pennsylvania on to execute overall project in an effort to reach project goals.
2. To locate individuals with SCD, enroll in programs in order to provide services and care coordination, promote education and awareness of hydroxyurea, and medical home.
3. Provide data, discuss project progress, assess regional progress and report on best practices.
4. To establish partnerships with State Newborn Screening Programs, Public Health Departments, churches, social service agencies and others to build coalitions to increase access to patients.
5. Work with local primary care provider networks and comprehensive centers in effort to provide medical home options for clients.
6. Promote programs in local community health centers to locate individuals with SCD for services and care coordination.
7. Work to meet the goals and objectives of the SCDAA-SCDNBSFP project grant.
8. Work closely with the Project Lead and Health Educator to develop work plans and maintain progress.
9. Other duties as assigned.

KEY PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES:

- Recruit and enroll individuals living with sickle cell disease (active & non-active patients/clients) into care, medical home and community based services as needed.
- Identify individuals living with sickle cell disease, within or outside of the existing database not receiving care in a medical home (haven’t been seen in a year or never having been seen).
- Connect individuals not receiving care or receiving inappropriate care to a medical home and increase the number of visits, per patient, by at least 1 annually.
- Connect and expand the number of adolescents and young adults seen by adult care team within a year from transition, annually.
- Implement a national patient compliance education & follow up program for newly identified patients (non-active) and increase existing compliance education to active patients.
- Increase the number of individuals with SCD educated on Hydroxyurea, Medical Home and family leadership.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND REQUIREMENTS

- Two (2) years related work experience.
- Community Advocate Experience, preferred
- Experience working in communities of color and with low income base.

EDUCATION

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Community Health Worker Certification, preferred (within 1 year)
- Valid PA Driver's License, required