

County Certified Prevention Specialist

The Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) will motivate and mobilize her/his community to build and sustain on-going capacity with an active, local-level community coalition. The coalition, with primary facilitation from the CPS, should strive to promote coordination and collaboration to make efficient use of community resources; primarily at the local level, while collaborating regionally and at the state level, when appropriate and possible. The primary focus of this CPS facilitated coalition will be the prevention of the misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and the prevention of suicide (ATODS), utilizing evidence-based prevention strategies and initiatives. The CPS will serve to educate and inform the coalition and other community stakeholders on current and evolving ATODS issues and work in collaboration and partnership to increase awareness, education, mobilization and action to promote overall community wellness. These efforts will be part of a capacity building and local decision-making process that will include conducting community needs assessments, researching evidence-based strategies and trainings, building community capacity, facilitating the development of coalition and stakeholder community strategic plans, implementation, continual reflection and consideration of mid-course adjustments, evaluation, etc., with intentional cultural competency and sustainability consideration.

Objectives and Responsibilities:

- Recruit local stakeholders into prevention coalition(s)
- Educate and build community capacity with coalition/local stakeholders about alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and suicide prevention
- Organize and facilitate meetings
- Research and utilize evidence-based prevention strategies
- Work with coalitions to create and implement data-driven strategic plans
- Directly present or facilitate presentations to educate and train various community organizations, entities, policy making boards, civic groups, etc.
- Manage monthly budget
- Work with media outlets including radio, newspaper, television, and internet
- Complete on-going data collection and reporting as required by the County Commissioners and funders
- Present updates at County Commissioners Meetings and attend other trainings and meetings, as required
- Research and review necessary trainings and educational opportunities for continued CPS and community education and training

Desired education & experience required:

Bachelor's degree in public health, public administration/policy, sociology, education, communications, marketing, counseling, social work, psychology, or other health-related field and/or four years' prevention related experience and experience in community mobilization and capacity building. CPS must be certified in SAPST (Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Training) or be able to be trained within six (6) months of hire. Be IC&RC (International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium) for Prevention Specialists certified or able to acquire that certification within a year.

Preferred qualifications and professional experience in the fields of prevention and/or wellness and/or mental health using evidence-based, environmental strategies. Knowledge of and experience using SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) SPF (Strategic Prevention Framework) model; trained and educated on various evidence-based suicide prevention and mental health models (i.e.-QPR, ASIST, MHFA, CONNECT Postvention, etc.).