USC Mann
Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

California Right Meds COLLABORATIVE

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATE: HEALTH SYSTEM FOCUS

27.5 HOURS OF CE (20.5 HOURS OF SELF-STUDY AND 7 HOURS OF LIVE TRAINING)

The Community Health Worker Certificate Program: Health System Focus is a specialized and comprehensive training initiative designed to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in Community Health Worker roles within the healthcare sector. The program brings unique perspectives from all essential aspects of health care, including medical and pharmacy practice, social work, and community health outreach, and empowers participants to make a positive impact on patient care and community well-being.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Comprehensive Curriculum

The program offers a carefully curated curriculum that blends theoretical knowledge with hands-on practical experiences. The coursework covers a wide range of topics, including an overview of chronic disease states, measuring vital signs such as blood pressure, collecting blood glucose values, teaching proper use of diabetes-related devices, obtaining accurate medication history, motivational interviewing, community outreach, health education, health advocacy, and cultural competency. They will also learn to identify social determinants of health and develop strategies to address healthcare disparities within diverse populations.

Curriculum components:

- Home study and Live sessions
- Active discussions with faculty and participants through the Discussion Forum and Live Sessions
- One-on-one Technical Support
- Minimum 40 hours of Practicum (field experience)
  - Allows participants to apply knowledge in real-world settings, positively impacting patient care and community health outcomes.
  - Facilitate practicum placement opportunities for students who may not initially secure a site, ensuring every participant has a chance to gain valuable hands-on experience in a healthcare setting.
  - Real-time skills competency assessment

Experienced Faculty

Participants will be guided by experienced and licensed pharmacists and healthcare professionals who possess in-depth knowledge of their respective fields. They will provide mentorship and guidance to ensure students' success in both roles.

Target Audience: Individuals with a passion for improving healthcare outcomes, advocating for community well-being, and bridging the gap between medical care, pharmacy, social work, and community health.

Goal: Equip individuals with the knowledge and competencies to help patients access health services and support them in their health journey with education, resources, and care coordination.

Expected Duration of the Program: Complete the curriculum and obtain the certificate within 4 months.
Meets state requirements.

For more information, contact pharmce@usc.edu

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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Community Health Worker Certificate Training is a structured program aimed at equipping participants with a comprehensive skill set to effectively address the diverse health needs within their communities. The training is divided into three parts, emphasizing hands-on experiences, case studies, and practical applications.

Part I: Foundation of Health Knowledge and Skills

Home Study (7.5 CE Hours):

- Introduction to the training program and the US healthcare system.
- Vital signs measurement with slides and supplemental videos for blood pressure, pulse, and respiration.
- Disease-specific modules on Hypertension, Diabetes, Asthma/COPD, and Cholesterol.
- Lifestyle Modification and obtaining medication history with instructional videos.
- CMM (Comprehensive Medication Management) check-in service with a corresponding video.

Part II: Enhancing Communication and Professional Skills

Home-Study (8.5 CE Hours):

- Interpersonal and relationship building skills, including motivational interviewing.
- Communication skills addressing barriers like cultural sensitivity, language, and health literacy.
- Breaking down complex concepts for patients with an emphasis on inclusive language.
- Basic knowledge of public health principles and social determinants of health.
- Professional skills development covering effective time management, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
- Application of technology, adherence to ethical standards, and participation in professional development.

Live Session (7.0 CE Hours):

- Outreach strategies, including CMM recruitment, retention, and customer service.
- Overview of common chronic diseases and practical sessions on obtaining medication history.
- Role plays for CMM check-in, vital signs measurement, and insulin administration.
- Interpersonal and relationship building skills, including motivational interviewing.

Part III: Community Engagement and Advocacy

Home-Study (4.5 CE Hours):

- Outreach strategies focusing on community programs and services.
- Service coordination and navigation, including understanding the healthcare system and insurance.
- Advocacy for community needs and capacity building for individuals.
- Education and facilitation of health information for patients.
- Individual and community assessment using formal tools to determine starting points.

In summary, this comprehensive Community Health Worker Certificate Training, offered three times a year on a rolling basis, provides a holistic approach to community health, covering foundational health knowledge, communication skills, and community engagement strategies. The program aims to produce competent and ready community health workers within a six-month timeframe.

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