

TRADITIONAL PRACTITIONER

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, performs spiritual counseling services to clients and their families utilizing Navajo traditional healing modalities to address problems of alcoholism or chemical dependency, and mental disorders; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

TASKS:

Performs Navajo traditional diagnostic assessments such as hand-trembling, star or crystal gazing, charcoal gazing, and prayer or meditation; recommends certain prayers based on cultural perspective of health/healing and traditional remedies; advises clients on traditional ways and treatment; may refer client to other native practitioners for treatment; performs traditional ceremonies/blessings; responsible for ceremonial preparation by gathering ceremonial items needed for ceremonies.

Consults and arranges with client and family on the type of healing ceremony needed and their involvement before, during and after the ceremony; accompanies and provides support to client in traditional healing ceremony; provides follow-up services; serves as a mediator between client and family members to address problems of the client; participates in case staffing by providing current patient progress reports; recommends appropriate traditional healing modality for new clients.

May assist in providing case collaboration with appropriate referral source regarding client's traditional assessment and ceremonies; provides in-house training on traditional beliefs, values and practices as related to health/healing; interacts with other community Traditional Healers to maintain expertise and discuss other techniques; attends training on traditional medicine, behaviors and perspectives; assists with preparation of required reports.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge of traditional Navajo ceremonies and their meaning.
Knowledge of minor and major Diné traditional healing ceremonies.
Knowledge of the Diné tradition, culture, philosophies and language.
Knowledge of the Peacemaker Ceremony Process.
Knowledge of the 12-step approach to substance abuse counseling.
Skill in performing traditional healing ceremonies and prayers.
Skill in communicating effectively in both oral and written forms.
Skill in communicating effectively in both the Navajo and English languages.
Skill in properly preparing for traditional ceremonies.
Skill in maintaining and retaining the history and symbolism of the Navajo traditions.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work involves considerable physical effort in preparing and conducting Traditional Ceremonies.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Five (5) year experience as a traditional healing practitioner.

THE NAVAJO NATION

Class Code: 3810
Community Education and Counseling Series
Traditional Counselor Group
Overtime Code: Non-Exempt
Pay Grade: 62

TRADITIONAL PRACTITIONER

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- A high school diploma or GED.
- 10 years of experience as a Navajo traditional healing practitioner of which 3 years must have been in a behavioral health setting.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Certified with the Navajo Nation Medicineman Association and/or Diné Hataatli Association, Native American Church.
- Possess a valid state driver's license.
- A favorable background investigation.

Supplemental Requirements:

Incumbent must obtain a Navajo Nation Vehicle Operator's Permit within 90 days of date of hire.

Depending on the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.