

Texas Child Care Health Consultant

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Mission: To promote optimal health, safety, nutrition, and development for children in out of home child care programs.

Summary:

The Texas Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) will provide consultation and technical assistance to child care providers on child health and safety issues. Consultation and training services will be made available to individual child care providers, both center- and home-based. The consultant should have knowledge and experience in early childhood education, child health and development; knowledge regarding children with special needs; and familiarity with child care standards in out-of-home child care settings. Specific activities may include: staff training; presenting parent and child health education programs; on-site assessment of health and safety practices of child care staff; assistance in development of policies and procedures; assistance with record keeping; and advocacy to promote quality child care in the community. The CCHC will NOT provide hands on medical or nursing care, or any type of education or mental health consultation to individual children or groups of children.

Basic Functions:

- Establish a relationship with child care providers (Remember—the **child care program is the client**, not the individual children)
- Promote a safe environment and optimal health in child care programs
- Assist in establishing basic health and safety operational guidelines
- Serve in a liaison capacity to health and child development professionals and community organizations
- Provide health and safety training to child care facility staff on identified health and safety needs
- Provide health and safety training at professional meetings and/or conferences

Prerequisite Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in nursing, health education/health promotion or related field, child development or early childhood education (including 12 academic hours in child development or early childhood/early care and education from an accredited university)
- Experience and/or knowledge of child health and safety issues, child care settings, and community resources
- Experience and/or knowledge in training adults and/or providing consultation, working with diverse populations, and evaluating program effectiveness
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing

Certification Requirements:

- Complete all activities required to become a CCHC, including:
 - ▶ Complete CCHC training (*typically a pre-training conference call, 2-day in-person training in Austin, and 12 online modules completed over 3 months*)
 - Complete homework assignments and follow-up activities
 - Receive a passing score of at least 70% on each post-training test
 - ▶ Hold training for child care providers, parents, etc. upon completing the CCHC training
 - ▶ Apply to the Texas Trainer Registry via The Texas Early Care and Education Career Development System
- Pay any required fees including transportation and lodging in Austin (*if applicable*)

Skills and Abilities Upon Completion of Training:

- Familiarity with out-of-home child care regulations
- Knowledge of child care health and safety issues
- Knowledge of *Caring for Our Children* standards and other national and state quality standards for out of home care OR child care programs
- Ability to work in a consultant role with strong written, verbal, computer, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to assess and evaluate program effectiveness
- Ability to work independently
- Skill in training adult learners
- Sensitive to the needs of diverse populations
- Knowledge of community resources

Responsibilities:

- Conduct on-site visits to early care and education programs
- Conduct training of early care and education providers and parents
- Perform on-site assessments of child care environments (inside and outside areas) and/or program operations
- Enter each service encounter (e.g., site visit, training, phone call) into the Texas CCHC online data form via the Healthy Child Care Texas website following each encounter to aid the State of Texas in tracking/collecting data for systems improvement and program evaluation
- Assess and promote developmentally appropriate environments and practices
- Assist child care providers in developing general policy statements and an annual health plan for the child care program (e.g., management of infectious diseases, fevers, use of medications, and exclusion policies)
- Link staff, families, and children with community health resources
- Provide telephone consultation to child care providers as issues arise concerning specific policies and procedures (Remember—licensing questions need to be addressed by Texas DFPS licensing staff)
- Educate children, families, and child care providers about mental and physical health, safety, nutrition, and oral health issues
- Serve as a resource for inclusion and care planning related to parents and children with special needs
- Advocate for/educate families and child care community on the importance of a “medical home”
- Develop partnerships among and between child care and health care providers, as well as parents, with a focus on prevention, early detection, and intervention for issues related to health, safety, nutrition, growth, and development
- Act as an advocate for the quality of child care in the community

A statement of approval from your employer is on the application form; it must be signed as part of the application process if you will be doing CCHC as part of your regular job responsibilities.

Interested? Contact Healthy Child Care Texas at hcct@hsc.state.tx.us for an application and additional details or visit www.healthychildcaretexas.org