

Vacancy Announcement

Senior Physician – Field Based Substance Use Services

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is seeking a candidate with strong administrative and clinical skills to lead the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau's ([SAPC's](#)) interdisciplinary team of practitioners providing field-based substance use services in Los Angeles County.

SAPC is responsible for leading and facilitating the delivery of a full spectrum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services via one of the largest specialty substance use provider networks in the country. With an annual operating budget of over \$750 million and over 550 staff positions, SAPC manages a network of approximately 150 provider agencies spread out over 400 sites across the County, including over 40 agencies within the prevention provider network and 12 contracted harm reduction syringe services program agencies that serve approximately 275,000 LA County residents each year.

Expanding SAPC's scope of field based services is a top priority for the Department of Public Health and a recent [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Motion](#) positioned SAPC to recruit and establish a team to deliver directly operated field-based services that expand the SUD capabilities of the County's current field-based multidisciplinary teams. The Senior Physician on this team will supervise the Field Based Substance Use Services team that includes physician specialists, senior clinical social workers, and substance use disorder counselors.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Senior Physician leads SAPC's Field Based Substance Use Services Team. This role involves administrative and clinical leadership, managing team members and assignments, and ensuring that SAPC's Field Based Substance Use Services Team's operation improves access to clinically appropriate substance use services. The Field Based Substance Use Services Team will also provide consultation, training, and technical assistance for LA County's existing multidisciplinary teams, street medicine providers, and street psychiatry programs to improve access to medically necessary and clinically appropriate substance use services for LA County residents experiencing homelessness in the largest and one of the most diverse counties in the nation.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Key functions of the Senior Physician overseeing SAPC's Field Based Substance Use Services Team includes applying administrative and clinical addiction medicine knowledge and skills to:

- Provide administrative, medical and clinical leadership, and supervision to the field-based teams inclusive of Physician Specialists, Senior Clinical Social Workers, and Substance Abuse Counselors and manage all aspects of SAPC's directly operated field based substance use services programming, including the development of policies and procedures to facilitate quality and evidence-based service delivery specifically including but not limited to addiction medications and other clinical care, and working with leadership to develop strategies to enhance and expand service delivery through SAPC's directly operated field-based services and through increasing the capabilities of the field based workforce external to SAPC;

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- Manage, assign, and assess for the effective delivery of case consultation and technical assistance by the Field-Based Services Team in coordination with substance use partners and providers as applicable, and teaching and advising medical, clinical, and counselor practitioners on the delivery of care for eligible LA County residents, including people experiencing homelessness (PEH) and people who use drugs (PWUD);
- Build partnerships with existing LA County multidisciplinary teams, providers of field-based mental health services, providers of field-based substance use and harm reduction services, and street medicine teams, for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of substance use services to LA County residents served by these programs; and advance medical/clinical understanding of effective substance use care and enable these teams and providers to improve delivery of services for individuals with substance use needs and support enhanced competencies for all practitioners regardless of specialty (e.g., mental health) to assess need for substance use referrals and how to access care;
- Manage trainings and development of the Field-Based Services Team and ensure staff are trained and ready to deliver appropriate resources and care – including but not limited to substance use treatment, overdose prevention and response, and harm reduction – both directly or through referral to appropriate community based programs; and provide consultation, training, research, and clinical expertise to leadership and staff, including external agencies, and serve as a departmental authority and spokesperson to guide the coordination and administration of all aspects of SAPC's directly operated Field-Based Substance Use Services, including responding to emergent efforts and working with other DPH programs, County departments, and communities ensure the field based workforce operating in LA County is prepared to meet LA County resident's needs for field-based substance use services;
- Cultivate and sustain partnerships with the existing field-based programs operating in LA County, including but not limited to, LA County multidisciplinary teams, providers of field-based mental health services, providers of field-based substance use and harm reduction services, and street medicine teams, for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of substance use services to LA County residents served by these programs;
- Ensure compliance with all regulatory (e.g., DMC-ODS, CalAIM) and confidentiality (e.g., 42 CFR Part 2, HIPAA) requirements, and document all services within the designated record in accordance with establishing clinical standards and follow established policies and procedures within scope of practice; conduct self-assessment of performance; comply with licensing and accreditation standards and other regulatory requirements; interpret and support standards and requirements to others, as needed.
- Complete other duties and performance expectations as needed in accordance with departmental needs, class specifications, or County Work Plan.

Los Angeles County offers its employees a comprehensive and competitive benefits package. Starting salary for the position is dependent on qualifications, specialty, and salary history.



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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- **OPTION I:** If assigned to a specialty: Completion of a residency and certification via a medical board approved by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or equivalent training **-AND-** One year of experience in medical practice, post graduate training, teaching or investigative work.
- **OPTION II:** If not assigned to an ABMS specialty: One year of experience in medical practice, post-graduate training, teaching or investigative work.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Board certification as an addiction physician specialist (addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry).
- At least two years of experience directly supervising managers and/or staff.
- Experience providing or collaborating with homelessness services.
- Outstanding organizational, written, and verbal communication skills.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in this position, please submit a cover letter and resume to Hugo Viramontes at hviramontes@ph.lacounty.gov **AND** complete an application for the Senior Physician exam at Health Services ([Exam No. Y5456G](#)) at governmentjobs.com/careers/lacounty (if you are not already on the list of physicians eligible for Senior Physician). Note that the online application is for physicians filling various positions in the County but does not include information specific to this position.

For more information about this position, please contact Brian Hurley, Medical Director at the Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control at bhurley@ph.lacounty.gov.

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