ALPHAPOINTE

Job Description

Job Title: **Teacher for the Visually Impaired / Orientation & Mobility Specialist**

**EEO Code:** 2

Reports To: Rehabilitation Services Manager

**FLSA Status:** Exempt

**Job Summary:** Performs evaluations and teaches adaptive techniques for independent travel and the use of equipment for written language skills, including Braille. May provide academic remediation, oral language skills, adaptive technology and customer service skill training.

**Essential Functions:**

- Provide orientation to adaptive skills of blindness, educating visually impaired children and adults on an array of adaptive tools and techniques, and reinforcing the importance of acquiring skills in order to become independent, job ready, and successfully employed.
- Conduct comprehensive Adaptive Skills Assessments with all Vocational Rehabilitation customers, and after careful analysis make formal recommendations for aids and appliances, modifications to the home environment, training needs and other services.
- Develop and maintain complete and accurate records and reports of all services provided for visually impaired children and adults being served.
- Develop and implement systems for evaluating the effectiveness of intervention procedures and keep appropriate personnel informed of findings.
- Develop individual educational program for students.
- Plan curriculum, modify curriculum and prepare lessons and other instructional materials according to student needs.
- Transcribe materials as needed.
- Arrange for and conduct field trips designed to promote experiential learning.
- Operate in multiple settings under the Rehabilitation Service Manager’s direction and keep appropriate personnel informed of activities, accommodations, modifications and services for clients with multiple disabilities.
- Review and respond to emails and phone messages in a timely manner.
- Provide adaptive skills of blindness training and services, developing individualized training curricula and establishing clear and measurable objectives for each customer.
- Continually monitor and document customer progress and assess effectiveness of training, making adjustments to the training plan as necessary, and provide ongoing support and guidance to build self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Provide input toward the development of quality service standards effecting policy, procedures and best practices.
- Evaluate new or upgraded aids, appliances, and techniques to determine appropriateness and use by customer, and identify new resources, tools and devices that may assist clients in increasing their independence and employability.
- Stay current with developments in the O&M/TVI profession, and meet with peers on a quarterly basis to discuss and share new ideas, techniques and professional developments. Confer with parents, administrator, testing specialists, social worker, and others to develop individual educational program for students, when collaborating with schools.
Plan curriculum, modify curriculum and prepare lessons and other instructional materials according to client needs.
Meet with family to discuss how parents can encourage client's independence and well-being and to provide guidance in using community resources.
Perform other reasonable duties that from time to time may be assigned to meet the usual and unusual demands placed on the organization.

Additional Functions:
Perform other duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Skill Requirements:
Bachelor’s degree required in orientation and mobility or its equivalent. Master’s degree preferred.
Complete internship in orientation and mobility is required.
Certifiable or certified through the nationally recognized accrediting body of O&M Specialists and Teachers for the Visually Impaired. Must maintain certification.
Excellent communication, assessment, and teaching ability required.
Knowledge of adaptive equipment and techniques for people who are blind and visually impaired is preferred.
Knowledge of grades 1 and 2 braille and other braille codes preferred.
Organization and attention to detail are required.
Knowledge of common eye diseases leading to blindness and their impact on functional vision.
Knowledge of major secondary disabilities and their impact on individual's functioning and learning.
Knowledge of the basic alternative skills, strategies, and access technology used by blind and visually-impaired people.
Knowledge of national and local resources for blind and visually impaired people.
Knowledge of federal and state laws affection services and rights of people with disabilities such as ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, etc.
Strong organizational skills and ability to multitask effectively.
Ability to effectively navigate the Internet and use other common computer applications such as MS Office Suite.
Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Working Conditions:
Considerable travel in community.
Work outdoors in all weather conditions.

Acknowledgements:
Employee signature __________________________             Date __________
Human Resource signature ____________________              Date __________