

Medical Director/Clinic Physician

Reports To: Tribal Health Board/Executive Director of Health and Human Services

Location: Happy Camp Karuk Community Health Clinic

Salary: Depends on Experience

Summary: As Medical Director shall advise the Executive Director of Health and Human Services in matters pertaining to the KTHP Medical Division. Shall provide supervision to other medical providers, ex; Family Nurse Practitioner (s), Physician Assistant (s), Locum Tenens, and other providers as delineated in the Karuk Tribal Organizational Chart. As a Clinic Physician, the Medical Director shall provide direct patient care services as well as supervise Clinic medical staff as delineated in the Karuk Tribal Organizational Chart.

1) What are your typical job responsibilities?

Treating Acute Medical Illness.

Providing preventative health care.

Educating the community.

Participating in Health Program efforts to continuously improve our health program.

2) How do you *really* spend your day?

Seeing patients 80%.

Administrative 20%.

3) How do you organize your day to ensure you get everything done?

I arrive on time; stay until closing.

The nurses and front office schedule the patients.

The scheduling is by appointment; urgent cases are screened by the nurse and given appropriate priority.

I am scheduled time for committee meetings and continuing education.

4) What education/career paths lead you to this position? Were there any life changes that guided your way to this position (ex; closing of the mill, desire not to leave area, family)?

I went to UCLA and majored in Biology. I thought Medicine would be interesting....and it was. I practiced in Michigan, Southern California and Hawaii. When I got married and had kids we settled in Southern California. In the late 1990's it became extremely crowded in the San Diego area and we decided to live a more rural life. I was delighted to find an opening for a physician in Happy Camp. My wife and kids love it here, as do I. I feel the Tribal Health program is the best medical employer I have ever worked for. Every dollar of resources is spent for the welfare of the patients. The Tribe also allows space for personal growth of each employee, spiritually as well as in one's job skills.

5) Uppers; what is the thing that you love most about your job?

Spending time with my neighbors, helping them with things that they feel are important.

6) Downers; what is the thing that you love least about your job?

The inevitable paper work.

Also being a physician is demanding on one's emotions and spiritual grounding. Luckily, the Karuk community is very nourishing, and I have a wonderful family; many wonderful friends and a strong faith.

7) What inspires, excites, and/or motivates you in your job?

Being able to help people. Particularly I am amazed and thankful to see people turn their lives around, or recover from illness.

8) What does your average work week schedule look like (ex; hours worked, meetings, appointments, traveling, etc.)?

I work a 40 hr. week.

I do not travel very much. I do a lot of my continuing education online.

I have meetings and paperwork about 20% of the time.

9) How do you relieve stress?

Play music with friends and family.

Pray.

Exercise.

Play games with my friends and family.

10) Does your job include a lot of traveling? Do you enjoy it?

Once every few years it is nice to get away to a conference. Otherwise I am happy here.

11) What advice would you give to someone interested in this line of work?

Find balance and harmony in your life while in college and medical school. If you don't you won't enjoy your life as a doctor.

12) What does a typical day in your world look like?

Pleasant. Spend time with friends. The clinic staff is one big family. Nice way to spend a day.