



The California Paraoptometric Section is interested in having more volunteers serve on the section's board. Please join us in developing useful programs for our members, and to spread the word by recruiting new CPS members! Contact Kim Pantel for more information at khym@hotmail.com.

CPS Update



I'm a medical assistant, an optical technician, a front office clerk, a medical records person, and sometimes I have to complete patient referrals.

THE REWARDS OF WORKING IN A COMMUNITY CLINIC

By Tammy Deer, ABOC, CPS Member

For the last three of 22 years working in the field of paraoptometry, I have worked in community-based health clinics and have found it to be very rewarding. I used to work retail and we would take time to volunteer one day of community work and I loved it! This is why I decided to work in a health clinic setting, and now every day is that way for me.

Working in community health requires you to do more with less. You have to wear a lot of different hats and be flexible. I currently split my time working at Inland Empire Community Health Clinic in Bloomington and Arlanza Family Health Center in Riverside where we provide optometric, medical and dental services for both the under and un-insured. I'm not just an optician — I'm a medical assistant, an optical technician, a front office clerk, a medical records person, and sometimes I have to complete patient referrals.

It is difficult to compare working in a clinic to a private practice setting — they are very different. Although there may not be the pressure of meeting sales or selling second pairs of glasses, you definitely still feel the stress. The demands of getting referrals faxed, patients called, appointments made, keeping the doctor on schedule, and still taking walk-in emergency red eyes — all while dispensing glasses and placing their orders all in one afternoon — can be overwhelming.

In community health my thinking is different. I like that there are no customers, only patients. Not one day have I thought about selling or meeting numbers, just helping people. It is truly rewarding to know I can make a difference in someone's life who has limited resources.

WELCOME!
New CPS Members

Amber Barron
Hoa Le
Jennifer Nguyen

Jenny Truong
MinhChau Truong