A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING

The Montana Cancer Center is located in the Broadway Building of St. Patrick Hospital. It is an outpatient clinic open Monday to Friday. It is comprised of Radiation Oncology and Medical Oncology. There is one SW who is designated to work at the cancer center who is there Monday to Friday from 8 – 4:30. There are approximately 1,000 new cancer patients seen by the center every year. There are currently 3 doctors in the radiation oncology practice and will be 5 doctors in the medical oncology practices.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP

The clients served are adult oncology patients who are either actively receiving treatment (Radiation or Chemotherapy) in addition to a few patients that are still in follow up. Occasionally will the social worker assist with Hematology patients. The patients seen are across the spectrum of resources, income and insurance status.

Cancer patients that are admitted to the hospital are also followed by the oncology social worker.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The student will have different learning opportunities that are not limited to:
- Designing and implementing a community needs assessment (Done every 3 years)
- Assessment and intervention based on patients needs
- Identifying and connecting patients with local and national resources.
- Limited counseling and crisis intervention
- Advance care planning
- Palliative Care
- Hospital discharge assessment and discharge planning
- Facilitation of support and/or educational groups
- Interdisciplinary work and interact with other medical staff

D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

The student is expected to be able to multitask and prioritize.
The student must be able to abide by all of the hospital’s policies and procedures including but not limited to those related to confidentiality, dress code, safety, mandatory education and ethics.
The student will need to feel comfortable working with sick and dying patients.
It is also important that the patient is able to maintain boundaries and have good self care.
Previous knowledge of medical terms and diagnosis and health insurances would be helpful.