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YouthLink Job Opening:  
MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER**

Provide mental health services to youth experiencing homelessness.

**About YouthLink**  
YouthLink is a recognized leader in the Twin Cities and beyond for our work to build pathways of opportunity for homeless youth ages 16 – 24. Our youth-focused team provides innovative, evidence-based services that guide youth on a holistic level toward futures of education, employment, health and wellness, and housing stability. Since 2011, YouthLink has been home to the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC), a first-of-its-kind collaborative center where over 30 community partners make vital resources available onsite to provide efficient and effective interventions and strategies for youth in crisis.

**Our Mission**  
At YouthLink, our mission is to support and empower young people on their journey to self-reliance.

**POSITION SUMMARY**

The Mental Health Practitioner provides mental health services primarily to youth involved in the START (Surviving to Thriving: A Real Transition) Program and Downtown 100 Youth Initiative. In addition to providing mental health-focused case management, crisis intervention, skill-building, and counseling as needed with START and Downtown 100 participants, the Mental Health Practitioner will work closely with other YouthLink staff and partners to coordinate services and ensure a holistic approach to work with youth.

Key responsibilities include:

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

* Assess youths’ strengths, immediate needs, and areas for development with specific attention to mental health concerns.
* Provide bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessments for youth and develop case plans that include service coordination.
* Provide counseling and crisis intervention on an as-needed basis.
* Work individually with youth to build self-regulation and coping skills that help move them toward independence.
* Coordinate and connect youth with appropriate internal and external services to support their mental health needs.
* Regularly review and update case plans with clients.
* Advocate for youth within systems that affect them.
* Work with case managers to develop and ensure a holistic approach to work with their clients.

**DOCUMENTATION:**

* Provide a minimum of 60 documented client service hours per month and complete all case documentation and reporting in a timely manner.
* Complete, maintain, and communicate individual program files, program reports, documentation, and client data entry (including MARRS) accurately and within established timelines.

**AGENCY REPRESENTATION:**

* Maintain professional boundaries with youth, co-workers, partners, and community.
* Ensure positive and professional representation of the agency in all interactions with youth, co-workers, partners, and community.
* Understand and apply Guiding Principles to work with clients, staff, and community and partner agencies.
* Consistently arrive on time for scheduled meetings and communicate absences according to agency policy.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

A Master’s degree in social services or a related field and 3-4 years of experience working with high-risk youth is preferred. Qualified applicants must:

* Be able to provide non-judgmental services, including demonstrating an acceptance of a variety of lifestyles, behaviors, and cultural and spiritual practices;
* Be comfortable and effectively able to work in a high-energy, fast-paced, and flexible environment where multitasking is often necessary;
* Be able to verbally and physically respond to aggression when necessary in ways that de-escalate and establish and maintain staff and youth safety;
* Exhibit a high degree of professionalism;
* Be able to manage time effectively;
* Be energetic, personable, and self-directed;
* Have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills;
* Be mission-driven and able and willing to incorporate agency philosophy into service delivery;
* Be comfortable with Microsoft Office applications.

The winning candidate must be able to pass a background check and drug test in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

**Hours:** Full-time, 40 hours per week, Monday – Friday. Must be available to work evenings as required.

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

Salary commensurate with experience. YouthLink’s competitive and comprehensive benefits package includes:

* Medical
* Dental
* Life Insurance
* Long Term Disability
* Supervision provided for individuals seeking LICSW, LISW, or LPCC.
* Elective benefits: Short-term disability, FSA, 401(k)

**HOW TO APPLY**

E-mail a cover letter and resume with the subject line “Opportunity Navigator” to [careers@youthlinkmn.org](mailto:careers@youthlinkmn.org). Cover letter should include an explanation of how you have applied one or more of YouthLink’s [Guiding Principles](http://www.youthlinkmn.org/about/our-guiding-principles/) in your work.

***Equal Employment Opportunity:*** *YouthLink**shall seek to ensure and provide equal opportunity for all persons seeking employment without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic as established by law.*