

YOUTHLINK JOB DESCRIPTION: Behavioral Health Specialist



DEPARTMENT	Drop In	DEPT. CODE	105
CATEGORY		STATUS	Full Time
LOCATION	YouthLink	SUPERVISOR	Lorraine Love
BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY		HOURS	40 hours

POSITION SUMMARY

The Behavioral Health Specialist will bring mission-focused engagement excitement, and innovation to extended hour drop-in services. Generally, the position will support all members of the YouthLink team, under the direction of the Senior Administrator of Drop-In Services, by providing specialized wellness mobile outreach to build immediate rapport with youth experiencing homelessness on the streets of downtown Minneapolis. Specifically, this position will triage and stabilize behavioral, mental health needs (“in the field”) while, simultaneously, partnering with the mobile outreach youth advocate , to form a holistic long-term stabilization plan based on basic needs and holistic wellness needs. Working extended evening shifts and some late evening shifts; this “co-responder” team will be the first point of contact for youth on the streets.

The Behavioral Health Specialist will be responsible for the coordination and delivery of behavioral, mental, chemical and wellness services; maintaining quality documentation; providing industry standards and culturally responsive direct services to young people experiencing homelessness. The person in this role will connect YouthLink participants to wellness activities to improve overall health and quality of life. They will also meet with other staff members to educate them about health coaching and, as needed, conduct initial assessments related to participant’s health goals.

The Behavioral Health Specialist will meet with YL mobile outreach participants at YL regularly to monitor goal progress and provide ongoing support. In addition, the incumbent for this position will lead wellness related programing within a variety of communities throughout Hennepin County.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Provide regular mobile drop-in outreach with “co-responder” team member in identified “hot spot” neighborhoods (5) in downtown Minneapolis.
- Assist youth in developing their own self-directed recovery plan, to include formal and informal referrals and supports primary care, dental care, social supports, culturally specific services
- Provide transportation to participant appointment, events, etc.
- Meet with participants, as needed to provide problem solving and supportive interactions, Conduct assessments and work with participants to identify and develop individualized wellness goals, assisting them with implementing and completing goals.
- Work with participants on physical limitations or conditions as needed or directed by primary care physician.
- Assist participants to access tools and information related to nutrition as related to their wellness goals.

- Track participant progress and use coaching skills to assist clients in the completion of their goals.
- Plan and coordinate drop-in center advisory council. Wellness challenges and health fairs to promote awareness and inspiration for taking steps toward positive health changes.
- Assist participants to learn more about community resources and opportunities for wellness, including connecting them to opportunities at Hennepin county, community education, local fitness centers, etc.
- Actively participate in center meetings and motivational interviewing. Support and implement evidence based practices related to specific program area.
- Employ a holistic approach including promoting health and wellness activities with program participants.
- Engage as a partner on the team; contributing to discussions, actions and projects.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

- Certification as Health Coach, Fitness Coach, Personal Trainer, or Nutrition Coach.
- Minimum of two years of experience working with individuals with serious and persistent mental illness, or other populations with disabilities, or experiencing health disparities.
- Experience with and/or commitment to working in a diverse, continuum of services in a fast-paced, growing organization.
- Demonstrated commitment to developing and delivering culturally responsive services.
- Previous work experience in a behavioral health setting would be ideal.
- Experience with programs serving individuals with dual diagnoses would be helpful.

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS:

Valid MN State Driver's License and reliable vehicle for use.

Must maintain vehicle car insurance, during the duration of employment.

COGNITIVE REQUIREMENTS

Language Skills	Intermediate	Able to read and interpret documents (ex. procedures, rules, instructions); able to write routine reports and correspondence and speak effectively to individuals and groups.
Mathematical Skills	Basic	
Reasoning Skills	High	Able to solve practical problems, deal with a variety of variables, interpret instructions.
Computer Skills	Programs Required: Programs required: Microsoft Word and Excel, Outlook, Internet, database entry.	

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Physical Function	Frequency		
	None	Occasionally	Regularly
Standing			
Walking			
Sitting			
Using hands			
Reaching with hands and arms			
Climbing or balancing			
Stooping, kneeling, crouching, or crawling			
Talking			
Hearing			
Tasting/smelling			
Lifting (up to 30 lbs.)			
Vision			

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge I have received a copy of this job description. I understand the duties, and am fully able to meet the requirements, and perform the essential functions of this position, with or without reasonable accommodations. I further acknowledge, and understand, this job description does not create an employment contract, and nothing contained herein alters my at-will employment status.

Employee Signature

Date

Print Name

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.