YouthLink Job Opening:

Behavioral Health Specialist

Be a part of building a strong and supportive community for youth.

About YouthLink

Founded in 1977, YouthLink is a leader in the Twin Cities for guiding young people (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness to believe and use their own potential to achieve long-term stability and self-reliance. YouthLink provides inclusive services to move youth forward on their journeys to holistic, integrated education, employment and housing stability. YouthLink also serves as the host site for the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) a “one-stop shop” of multiple community partners all focused on serving homeless youth. More than 1800 young people seek services at YouthLink annually. In partnership with two affordable housing agencies, YouthLink also provides supportive services in more than 90 units of transitional and permanent supportive housing throughout the city.

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

To be a community where all youth, without regard to their living situation, have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams, and an equal likelihood of achieving them.

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 participates 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.

**Benefits**

YouthLink’s competitive and comprehensive benefits package includes:
- Medical
- Dental
- Life Insurance
- Long Term Disability

**HOW TO APPLY**

E-mail a cover letter and resume with the subject line “Behavioral Health Specialist” to careers@youthlinkmn.org.

*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.

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