



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD3540

JOB TITLE:	Child & Youth Counsellor - Mental Health Crisis Team	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	60518
CLASSIFICATION:	Disciplines Allied to Social Work P1	GRID/PAY LEVEL:	H-I-P1
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:	Health Science Professionals	HSCIS NO.:	50001
UNION:	HSA	JOB/CLASS CODE:	50001
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:	Child, Youth & Family Mental Health Services	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Program Coordinator		
FACILITY/SITE:	VIHA SI: VGH; QACCH		

JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), patient safety is a priority and a responsibility shared by everyone at VIHA; as such, the requirement to continuously improve quality and safety is inherent in all aspects of this position.

Under the direction of the Program Coordinator or designate and in collaboration with other health professionals, both internal and external, the Child & Youth Counsellor (CYC) provides care in the Pediatric Unit for children and youth experiencing mental health crisis or acute psychiatric illness building capacity support to the Pediatric Staff involved in their care. Using a trauma-informed approach the CYC develops and supports the pediatric staff to develop and carry out stabilization care plans, provides evidence-based brief therapeutic interventions within the context of crisis stabilization, provides individual and family crisis counseling, liaises and coordinates care with community programs for discharge planning and assists in the constant supervision of admitted MH patients. The CYC also collaborates with the Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team to provide brief follow-up services for children and youth discharged from hospital.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Assesses, records and reports the health status of assigned patient/clients in order to identify and document patient/client status by performing duties such as:

- Collecting and documenting patient/client data from patient/client, family and other collateral sources, chart or related client/patient records, and physical, mental status and psychosocial assessments;
- Assessing, reporting and initiating preventive measures for potential elopement risks, violent or self-destructive behaviour;
- Using principles of non-violent crisis intervention to prevent altercations
- Assisting individuals and families in the management of behaviours interfering with self-management;
- Making referrals to other service providers in the community as appropriate;
- Reporting current status or changes in status to appropriate team members and altering plan of care as required
- In consultation and collaboration with the multi-disciplinary team develops, evaluates and modifies the plan of care. Records on the clinical record. Participate in client outcome data collection methods.

2. Collaborates with inter-disciplinary team members, community care partners, and the patient/client and family to develop and modify a patient/client care plan, including the flow of care, to address the assessed needs of the individual by:

- Establishing short term health status goals;
- Assessing family resources, and involving family and others in formulating the plan of care;
- Initiating and overseeing the discharge planning process.
- Assisting co-workers to develop knowledge and skills in the application of the principals of trauma-informed care and client/family centred care by teaching/coaching and/or mentoring.
- Providing support to staff in planning and prioritizing patient care delivery;
- Ensuring proper hand-over of unit and patient care responsibilities from days to evening shifts;
- Providing role modeling, coaching, and mentoring for relevant paediatric staff.
- Providing orientation to new employees.
- Planning for shift activities as required.

3. Provides direct care by performing functions such as:

- Providing direct care to patient/clients.
- Maintaining an emotionally and physically safe environment for patients/clients by continually assessing and identifying interventions to avoid, redirect or resolve crisis situations.
- Monitoring patients'/clients' social behaviour, attitude changes and unusual occurrences and informing the team, the Clinical Nurse Leader and the Program Coordinator.
- Explaining care plan to client/patient and family;
- Conducting planned interventions, and providing guidance and direction to other unit staff as required;
- Initiating measures to relieve crisis or emergent situations;
- Teaching self/home care skills to client/patient and/or family members.
- Evaluating patient/client response to clinical interventions as identified in the care plan and modifying interventions as appropriate.
- Initiating the multidisciplinary team evaluation of client/patient care, including readiness for discharge.

4. Contributes to the ongoing program development by:

- Providing input into the development and/or revision of policies and procedures.
- Providing input to and participates in quality improvement plans/activities.
- Providing in-services on issues or services related to emergency child and youth mental health assessment.
- Attending team meetings, gathers data, and participates in Continuous Quality Improvement activities.

5. Provides information regarding community resources, as requested.

6. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Bachelors Degree in Child/Youth Care or other discipline related to mental health, plus three (3) years recent related experience in the assessment and treatment of Children/Youth with psychiatric/mental health concerns. A working knowledge of DSM IV diagnoses and related treatments, the Mental Health Act, the Hospital Act and the Child, Family and Community Service Act. Valid Class 5 BC Driver's License.

Skills And Abilities

- Demonstrated ability to conduct age-appropriate mental health assessment, including risk to self/others and mental status.
- Ability to apply crisis intervention and stabilization principles.
- Ability to work effectively and efficiently under pressure, in high-acuity situations.
- Demonstrated ability in establishing therapeutic relationships.
- Demonstrated ability to deal effectively with a variety of internal and external contacts, including co-workers, physicians, community agency representatives, patients/clients, and families/ significant others.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team.
- Demonstrated ability to consistently apply effective and respectful communication skills, including active-listening, problem-solving, respectful limit setting, and reframing.
- Practice within the concepts of Patient/Family Centred Care, Trauma Informed Care, Collaborative Problem Solving and Motivational Interviewing.
- Ability to contribute to a safe work environment including utilizing the least restrictive de-escalation skills.
- Ability to organize work and the demands of the shift and work effectively and efficiently under pressure.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively in writing.
- Ability to use a computer and software, such as various Microsoft Office applications, electronic health records, etc.
- Physical ability to perform the duties of the position.