



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD4487

JOB TITLE:	MHSU Counsellor - Addiction Services	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	4487
CLASSIFICATION:	Disciplines Allied to Social Work P1	GRID/PAY LEVEL:	H-I-P1
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:	Health Science Professionals	HSCIS NO.:	50001
UNION:	BCGEU	JOB/CLASS CODE:	50001
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:	Mental Health and Substance Use	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Clinical Coordinator or designate		
FACILITY/SITE:	VIHA: SI-Victoria; CI-Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni; NI-Campbell River, Comox Valley		

JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of the Vancouver Island Health Authority, 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 Clinical Coordinator or designate, works within the organization's framework and standards, and a rehabilitation/recovery harm reduction focused model, as a member of a interdisciplinary treatment team, the Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor - Addiction Services provides assessment, intervention, treatment, outreach and/or detoxification and/or recovery consultation and referral for clients experiencing mental health and alcohol & drug addiction problems and their caregivers/families. Travel may be a requirement of this position and transportation arrangements must meet the operational requirement s of the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. As a member of the interdisciplinary treatment team, provides service in the community setting by:
 - Screening referrals through the intake process to ensure clients meet service mandate;
 - Providing mental health and/or substance use assessments;
 - Ensuring all clients have a service plan that maximizes rehabilitation and utilizes relevant community supports that are developed in partnership and coordinated with the client and caregiver/family and the interdisciplinary team;
 - Utilizing a variety of treatment modalities for individuals, groups and families;
 - Promoting and facilitating client independence, by modeling, counselling and teaching life skills within a psycho-social rehabilitation model;
 - Acting as client advocate;
 - Providing culturally sensitive services;
 - Performing the function of coordinating client treatment;
 - Participating in discharge planning and follow up;
 - Documenting observations, interventions and service outcomes in client records;
 - Reviewing and maintaining up to date clinical records to monitor and evaluate treatment outcomes; and

- Maintaining required statistical documentation and health information systems in accordance with VIHA processes and standards.

2. Provides services that are continuous in all phases of mental health, alcohol and drug addiction, and concurrent disorders treatment and support by:

- Collaborating and consulting with other service providers on the interdisciplinary team by providing input and feedback;
- Delivering services at various sites in the community, including private homes as assigned;
- Participating in and delivering educational sessions for clients and their families; and
- Developing community support components to service plans that maximize the client's inclusion in the community in collaboration with client, family, and other sources of support for the client.

3. Under the direction of the Coordinator or designate, carries out quality assurance activities and projects, analyzing and acting upon information received through incident reports, evaluations and other data, including collecting and compiling statistical data for research and evaluation purposes and contributing to the development of outcome measures for Mental Health and Addictions Services.

4. Communicates and shares information with community agencies and the public about mental illness and mental health and/or alcohol and drug addiction services, promoting good public relations and facilitating efficient and cooperative relationships.

5. Performs other related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Baccalaureate Degree in a health related discipline from an approved post-secondary institution.

Recognized post basic education related to mental illness and/or alcohol and drug addiction; Two (2) years recent related experience; an understanding of mental health and alcohol and drug addiction issues; substance misuse assessments, treatment methodologies, intervention strategies, the change process, and community dynamics.

Knowledge of applicable legislation, such as Mental Health and Child Protection legislation. Knowledge of available programs and services, their interrelationships, and their function in delivering services in the community. Or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

Valid BC Driver's License.

Skills And Abilities

- Demonstrated competence in the treatment of addiction and mental illness congruent with VIHA's framework and standards within a rehabilitation/recovery, harm-reduction focused model;
- Communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated organizational, problem solving and teaching skills.
- Demonstrated judgment, good observation and client assessment skills, tact and empathy in working with addiction clients.
- Work collaboratively as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Promote positive change and independence.
- Prioritize and organize workload.
- Ability to carry out the duties of the position.

- Operate a personal computer with a variety of Windows based software.
- Foster good public relations.
- Operate related equipment.