



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD5011

JOB TITLE:	Child & Youth Outreach Counsellor	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	5011
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:	Child, Youth & Family Mental Health & Substance Use	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Program Lead/Manager		
FACILITY/SITE:	Various Island Health sites SI/CI/NI		

JOB SUMMARY:

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

Reporting to the Program Lead, Integrated Child and Youth Teams or Manager, the Child and Youth Outreach Counsellor provides triage, screening/assessment, urgent clinical response, short-term psychotherapeutic/stabilization services, exploration of community resources and client needs, liaison and coordination with other community services and participation in planning priorities for service primarily for children and youth experiencing mental health crisis. The Counselor utilizes a high level of skill in assessing and working with identified high-risk children and youth who experience a wide range of complicated mental, emotional, behavioural, physical, psychosocial, and environmental problems. Assesses the psychosocial and environmental needs or dysfunction secondary to, or exacerbating the psychiatric problems which might contribute to the risk of suicide.

Travel is a requirement of this position. Transportation arrangements must meet the operational requirements of Island Health in accordance with the service assignment and may require the use of a personal vehicle.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Conducts initial screening and triage of incoming referrals, in consultation with Program Leads as necessary
2. Provides crisis intervention, risk assessment, collateral information gathering, and exploring community resources with clients by phone, or on an outreach/mobile basis when required and as directed
3. Establishes a working relationship with the child or youth, and formulates treatment goals that address identified needs, stressors and problems, or refers to other services as assessed and required.
4. Facilitates the provision of short-term follow-up support and crisis stabilization, including brief solution focused and behavioral interventions, and psychoeducation and support to families and other involved caregivers in order to facilitate crisis stabilization and support client and family functioning
5. Facilitates involvement of guardian/family and other supports where appropriate in the collecting of collateral information and development of a safety plan and referrals to other service providers where appropriate.
6. Utilizes a range of training and/or education strategies for imparting knowledge, improving skills and building awareness of resources
7. Maintains current knowledge of relevant policies, procedures, legislation and decisions, that impact on the work and services provided.

8. Proactively engages and liaises with other direct care service providers in the interest of enhancing continuity of care
9. Facilitates conveyance to ER where appropriate, on a voluntary basis, or in partnership with police under the emergency provisions of the Mental Health Act, for further assessment by a physician
10. Performs other related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Baccalaureate Degree in a health related discipline from an approved post-secondary institution. Eligible for registration with the appropriate Health Regulatory College and/or licensing body. Two (2) years' recent related experience in areas requiring frequent crisis intervention and risk assessment, understanding of mental health and substance use issues; psychiatric and suicide risk assessments, crisis intervention and response techniques and strategies, knowledge of available programs and services; knowledge of applicable legislation, such as the Mental Health Act, Child Protection legislation, Infants Act; or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Valid BC Drivers' License.

Skills And Abilities

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to organize, coordinate, and prioritize own work.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and in partnership with other disciplines as part of a collaborative team
- Demonstrated and proven interpersonal and clinical skills, including crisis intervention, stabilization and de-escalation
- Demonstrated critical thinking and collaborative problem solving skills.
- Demonstrated judgment, good observation and client assessment skills, tact and empathy
- Physical ability to perform the duties of the position
- Ability to work and make decisions under pressure
- Ability to work professionally and effectively with complex/at-risk clients
- Demonstrated ability in completion of documentation that is in compliance with professional, agency and legal requirements
- Demonstrated ability to deal effectively with conflict situations, manage aggressive behaviour and use non-violent crisis intervention and behavioural management techniques
- Ability to interact with others effectively, often in highly charged emotional states.
- Ability to operate a personal computer with a variety of windows based software and other office equipment