

TITLE: Integrated Child & Youth Peer Support Worker
SECTION: ICY Team
REPORTS TO: ICY Clinical Counsellor

#247

SUMMARY

Under the direction of the Integrated Child & Youth Clinical Counsellor, the ICY Peer Support Worker's primary responsibilities are to draw on their own lived experience, to offer peer-based mentoring and emotional support, and work collaboratively with youth, their families, and members of the care team. The ICY Peer Support worker acts as a role model and helps young people and their families work towards their self-identified goals by supporting them with systems navigation and to connecting them with resources on ICY teams and in the community.

DUTIES

1. Provide peer-based mentoring and emotional support to youth ages 12-19 with the following:
 - a. establishing a purposeful relationship based on respect with youth and their families and friends by encouraging informed decision making and helping to create a non-judgmental environment by sharing experiences and insights;
 - b. providing support that aligns with ICY practice principles: culturally safe, trauma informed, child/youth/family centered, Nation/community centered, and inclusive of youth who identity as part of the LGBTQ2S+ community;
 - c. supporting youths' recovery through selective motivational and supportive self-disclosure including the sharing of personal recovery experiences and strategies for attaining and maintaining wellness;
 - d. encouraging and supporting youth to become active and involved in their own health, promoting youth participation in activities, and encouraging membership in the school community;
 - e. advocating for youth and accompanying youth to appointments when requested;
 - f. supporting systems navigation and resource distribution to youth;
 - g. facilitating or co-facilitating groups for children, youth and families as needed;
 2. Work in an integrated way within a multidisciplinary team and collaborate with organizational, community, and hospital-based teams.
 3. Access supervision to support regular consultation, learning and reflections as applied to the role of Youth Peer Support worker.
 4. Participate on integrated care planning conferences, team meetings, case reviews, and organizational initiatives as required.
 5. Participate in training opportunities through the ICY team and employer organization, and in evaluation, quality improvement and research activities as required.
 6. Complete and maintain related records and documentation pertaining to organization and ICY teams.
 7. Facilitate youth engagement and participation in focus groups, workshops, surveys, and related activities.
 8. May on occasion be required to perform other related duties as assigned.
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QUALIFICATIONS

Education & Experience:

- Grade 12 Graduation Dogwood or Completion Certificate, including 2 years of related experience working with youth and young adults with mental health and/or substance use issues or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.
- Lived understanding of mental illness and/or substance use, completion of/eligible for completion of a recognized youth peer support-training program Lived experience and/or understanding of equity, diversity, and inclusive practices (i.e. Indigeneity, anti-racism, LGBTQ2+) as it relates to the local population.
- Preference may be given to individuals who have completed a recognized Peer Support Training course.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Establish rapport and maintain respectful relationships with young people and family members.
- Empathic, compassionate, with good listening skills and creative thinking.
- Observe and recognize changes in youth and communicate those changes to others on the care team.
- Conflict resolution and crisis intervention skills.
- Self-awareness and capacity to apply appropriate boundaries and maintain confidentiality.
- Promote positive change and independence.
- Self-starter with a positive attitude, and able to advocate for self and others.
- Knowledge of social, mental health, and substance use services available in the community.
- Knowledge of systemic issues and risk factors facing minority groups including LGBTQ2S+ and Indigenous youth and young adults.
- Knowledge and understanding of Indigenous cultural practices and beliefs.
- Problem solving and decision-making skills; ability to gather and process information to support the organization and its team.
- Communication skills; ability to speak, listen, and write clearly, thoroughly, and professionally.
- Organizational and time management skills, accountability, reliability, and punctuality.
- Ability to work independently and show initiative, as well as be part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Basic computer skills: experience with Microsoft Office, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.