

JOB TITLE
CLASSIFICATION/BENCHMARK
GRID LEVEL

Stopping the Violence (STV) Counsellor
Stopping the Violence Counsellor
14P
SOWINS POSN #U-22



JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Stopping the Violence (STV) Counsellor

PROGRAM: Counselling Services

REPORTS TO: Manager Counselling & Victim Services

WORKS WITH: Works with SOWINS team members, including: Executive Director, Administration Team, Women's Counsellors, Mature Women's Outreach Counsellor, PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment) Counsellor, SAFEXST Counsellor, SAFEXST Team, Transition House Team, Employment Services Coordinator, Victim Services Support Workers, and Housing Programs Coordinator.

JOB SUMMARY: Reporting to the Manager Counselling & Victim Services, Counsellors at SOWINS provide individual and group counselling and additional supports to women who have been victims of various forms of abuse - or at risk of experiencing abuse. This may include, but not limited to physical abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and/or sexual assault.

Services are provided from a feminist and trauma-based perspective while encompassing the principles of the client centered approach. Counselling uses techniques such as therapeutic group counselling and self-skill workshops

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Assesses the safety of the clients and their children, and supports clients in reducing safety risks by creating and implementing safety plans, when appropriate.
2. Practices and encompasses the biopsychosocial approach to counselling.
3. Interviews clients to gather case history information. Assesses profound social, psychological, biological, emotional and/or behavioral issues affecting clients. Identifies core areas of concern to be addressed by clinical counselling.
4. Develops and implements therapeutic plans and programs necessary to meet client goals and objectives. Provides individual and group counselling interventions using therapeutic techniques depending on client need.
5. Provides follow-up support to clients after the end of therapy treatment. Advises other professionals involved with client's case where further evaluation or more intensive treatment is required.

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6. Maintains knowledge of community resources and provides appropriate referrals to clients to meet their needs. These include referrals to other community service providers, resources and professionals as required.
7. Formulates and facilitates creation of group counselling, as well as therapeutic and support groups in program areas for clients.
8. Provides consultation to those working with client cases i.e. Social Workers, Crown Prosecutors, Probation Officers, other organization staff, and other professionals.
9. Participates in or initiates case conferences with other professionals as required.
10. Maintains related records and statistics and produces required reports on clients' behavior and progress. Maintains clinical records indicating the nature and duration of treatment.
11. Maintains current knowledge of issues and resources related to abuse and violence and educates the community about these issues. Participates in staff training sessions, public education forums, seminars, conferences, presentations and public awareness activities about services and issues relevant to specific program areas. Engages in prevention activities by networking, consultation, and public relations as required.
12. Performs other related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education/Training:

- Bachelor's degree in related field - human/social services, psychology, or counselling.
- Standard First Aid with CPR Level C.
- Non Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) Training.

Experience:

- Two years recent related experience working with women who have experienced violence or abuse
- Two years recent experience working with codependency, violence in relationships, boundaries, and trauma

OR equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of the needs and support required by victims of abuse.
- In-depth knowledge of various therapeutic techniques available for counselling victims of abuse.
- In depth knowledge of SOWINS – or equivalent organization, and other local community agencies.

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Skills/Abilities:

- Demonstrated judgement when modifying counselling techniques in working with women who have experienced abuse to provide counselling from a feminist and trauma based perspective.
- Demonstrated ability and techniques as they apply to counselling a diverse clientele.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills – written and oral.
- Demonstrated proficiency with various computer programs and Microsoft programs – outlook, word, and excel.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team and maintain healthy professional relationships.
- Demonstrated effective time management skills to ensure punctuality and ability to prioritize work.
- Ability to problem solve with clientele and demonstrated ability to make sound professional judgements.
- Ability to create and implement safety plans when appropriate.

Other Requirements:

- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check.
- Willing to work flexible hours as required by the Manager Counselling & Victim Services.
- Valid BC Driver's License.

SOWINS Core Competencies:

- Is respectful, non-judgmental and inclusive at all times.
- Follows through on commitments and obligations.
- Works honestly and fairly with staff, colleagues, clients and other organizations with whom we work; communicates effectively.
- Fosters open communications.
- Plans and organizes time effectively and efficiently.
- Represents SOWINS in a positive and professional manner.
- Models the Society's Code of Conduct.