



JOB POSTING

Position Title: Harm Reduction COVID Mental Health Worker
Reporting to: Manager, Harm Reduction
Type: Contract ending March 31st, 2021
Salary: \$27.34 - \$32.94 per hour
Positions: 1 position - full time term
possibility of additional part time or relief positions, also term
all positions may require evening and weekend hours.
Deadline: **Thursday December 17th, 2020 at 12:00 pm EST**

This a contract position ending on March 31st, 2021 with a possibility of an extension depending on funding.

BACKGROUND

Somerset West Community Health Centre (SWCHC) is a multidisciplinary agency offering a diverse range of programming to promote health and social well-being among community members. Priority is given to individuals with unique needs, including single parent families, those who are financially insecure, new Canadians, and persons coping with various disabilities. SWCHC's many services include Primary Health Care, Mental Health Counselling, Seniors Outreach, Medical and Social Services Walk-in, Acupuncture, After School Children and Youth Programs, Head Start Nursery and Preschools, and Outreach to Rooming Houses.

SWCHC's Harm Reduction Services include the following: Needle Exchange and Safe Inhalation program (NESI), the Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS), Opioid Agonist Treatment Service (OAT), Drug Overdose Prevention and Education program (DOPE), HIV Point of Care Testing, ACB HIV Prevention and Safe Supply.

This fall we received short-term funding to put additional supports in place to address the impact of COVID-19 on our clients. This mental health worker will provide onsite services to clients of the harm reduction department navigating mental health distress as a result of COVID-19, as well as outreach based services to individuals or rooming houses under isolation orders in COVID-19 infection & outbreak scenarios.

JOB SUMMARY

The pandemic has been particularly impactful on the mental health of street involved persons who use drugs. The impacts of exacerbated poor health, isolation, history of trauma and decreased access to social services has put a marked strain on the mental health of a concurrent disorders population already living with moderate to severe mental health diagnoses and challenges. With existing services and hospital capacity stretched in the sector, we increasingly see individuals in our service population present with acute concerns such as suicidality, paranoia, and other distresses. An onsite mental health worker can provide that essential timely, point-of-care mental health intervention to meet these needs. The mental health worker will have experience and comfort working with individuals who: are homeless or precariously housed; may be experiencing active and/or acute intoxication, withdrawal, trauma activation; agitation or psychosis; and who may be COVID-symptomatic or COVID-positive.

This position will work as part of the COVID Rapid Response & Isolation Supports team, as well as collaborate with and support the work of the broader Harm Reduction Department and the Centre.

Qualifications

- Lived experience of substance use or mental health and asset
- Post-secondary education in social work, psychology, or relevant degree
- Registration with an accredited body regulating the act of counselling & psychotherapy and in good standing with same (eg. OCSWSSW; CRPO)
- Training and competency in applicable clinical interventions for a population with active substance use, trauma and crisis, including but not limited to: de-escalation; crisis counselling; risk assessment including suicidality/homicidality; stage 1 trauma containment skills (ex grounding, seeking safety); motivational interviewing; dialectical behaviour therapy; and other relevant clinical interventions
- Training and competency in behavioural management and violence risk assessment considered assets
- Comfort working with individuals who are COVID-symptomatic or COVID-positive
- Comfort working in full Personal Protective Equipment for long periods of time, up to full shifts
- Comfort and competency operating in walk-in, congregate, and outreach based service millieus, delivering services in a way that are accessible and non-stigmatizing to clients who have challenges with fixed appointment times
- Ability to develop care plans
- Competent in clinical documentation, familiar with electronic health records, clinical documentation standards
- Familiar with relevant legislation including PHIPPA, MHA
- Demonstrated understanding of and commitment to the principles of harm reduction
- Previous experience responding to emergency or outbreaks would be advantages
- Basic knowledge of COVID-19 safety and health standards and regulations
- Good organisational and leadership skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to bring teams together in a collaborative manner and support on-going cohesiveness in a complex and dynamic environment.
- Commitment to the principles of health equity and inclusion
- Good analytical and problem-solving abilities
- Ability to develop and use metrics to monitor progress towards goals and vision
- Ability to understand and respond to grant and funding applications including metrics, target setting and budgets
- High level of computer literacy
- Must be available to work occasional evenings or weekends as required
- Successful completion of police record check for vulnerable populations

Linguistic Profile

- English, spoken and written required
- French or other languages considered an asset

If interested, please submit your letter of interest and résumé no later than **Thursday December 17th, 2020 at 12:00 pm EST to: <https://swchc.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=292>**

Somerset West works within an Anti-Racism and Anti- Oppressive Framework

If at any stage in the selection process you require special accommodation, please let us know the nature of the required accommodation.

Somerset West Community Health Centre is an equal opportunity employer who values the diversity of individuals in our programs and services.

Due to the high volume of applicants, we can neither confirm receipt of nor respond to inquiries regarding your application. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.