

Volunteer LGBTQ Community Counsellor

Program Summary

David Kelley Services provides culturally appropriate assessment, referral, case coordination, case advocacy and counselling service to clients who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ).

Position Summary

We are accepting volunteer applications from LGBTQ identified individuals to provide culturally appropriate assessment, referral, case coordination, case advocacy and counselling service to clients who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ). We are actively seeking applications from LGBTQ identified females.

Volunteer LGBTQ Community Counsellors are involved with and knowledgeable about the les/bi/gay/trans/queer communities in the Toronto area, the network of services available and will represent and promote the interests of clients and the service of FST and David Kelley Services.

Core Responsibilities

- Assess the psycho-social needs of potential clients, formulate and implement a service plan based on this assessment
- Provide individual, couple and family, and possibly group work to LGBTQ identified clients and their families including persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS
- Ensure the effective co-ordination of services to clients
- Provide referrals and advocate on behalf of clients as required
- Maintain client records in accordance with FST and program policy and procedures
- Collect statistics as required
- Maintain current knowledge of community resources and services
- Maintain a working knowledge of FST's policies and procedures and carry out responsibilities in accordance
- Required to observe professional ethics and conflict of interest guidelines at all times as outlined in agency policies, as outlined in the policies and practices of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers
- Must work within their area of practice and experience and declare any restrictions.
- Seek out and participate in regular supervision and consultation with staff, manager and peers

- Become familiar with and maintain the values and purposes of the Agency and David Kelley Services in the delivery of social work and volunteer services
- Bring appropriate concerns or conflicts to the attention of the Manager

Volunteers may also be involved in

- Contributing to program planning and development of services in response to client needs
- Providing education within FST and/or the community
- Participating in and/or informing education and social action initiatives in the interests of LGBTQ individuals and their communities
- Participating in the selection and training of volunteers

Experience and Skills

- Successful completion of a recognized Master's level clinical training program (e.g. MSW, Counselling Psychology, M.Ed.), or eligibility to register with a regulated health profession that includes the qualification to practice psychotherapy
- Demonstrated counselling experience with diverse communities particularly with the lesbian/gay/bi/trans/queer communities and to persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS
- Demonstrated experience working with a variety of counselling interventions including brief counselling / psychotherapy approaches
- Lived experience, demonstrated involvement in and established credibility in the LGBTQ communities, such as demonstrated ability for public leadership. Knowledge and understanding of the culture and history of lesbians and gay men, bisexuals, transgender and queer identified individuals and of the issues affecting them and their communities. Comfortable being identified with these communities.
- When appropriate, all DKS counsellors are expected to use their own experiences in regards to disclosure, and to be role models for their clients when dealing with family, at work and within society in general
- Proven knowledge and understanding of the bio/psycho/social impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals and the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans communities
- Demonstrated commitment to anti-racist and anti-oppression practice
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team and independently

Time commitment

We require a minimum commitment of one year, once a week for three hours Monday or Wednesday evenings

Training

- Regular staff/peer/volunteer consultation and professional development is provided

Benefits

- Increased counselling capacity
- Increased group work capacity
- Increased experience working with individuals of diverse ethno/racial backgrounds
- Contribution to building community capacity within the LGBTQ & HIV/AIDS communities

A Police Records Check is required and MSW/RSW will undergo qualification verification.

Please apply for this position online through the Volunteer Application Form and attach a resume and cover letter to your application.