



Counsellor

Position: Counsellor
Program: Seniors and Caregivers Support Service
Contract: Full-time; 35 hours per week until March 31, 2020.

On April 1, 2020, position becomes permanent part time 24.5 hours/week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday half day, Thursday).

Primary Location: 1527 Victoria Park with frequent travel within Toronto

Salary: \$53,940 - \$66,437 BU Grade 8 (pro-rated to time worked)
Application Deadline: July 26, 2018; 5.00pm
File Number: SCSS #14-18 – with cover letter and resume
E-Mail: hrdep@familyservicetoronto.org
Mail: HR, Family Service Toronto, 355 Church Street, Toronto, ON M5B 0B2
Web: familyservicetoronto.org

Family Service Toronto (FST) helps people face a wide variety of life challenges. For over 100 years, we have worked with individuals and families destabilized by precarious mental health and/or socioeconomic circumstances, to achieve greater resilience and stability in more just and supportive communities. We achieve this through our direct service work of intervention and prevention which includes counselling, peer support and education; knowledge building; and system-level work including social action, advocacy, community-building and working with partners to strengthen the sector.

The Seniors and Caregivers Support Service Department at Family Service Toronto provides counselling services and case management supports to older people and caregivers. Our work includes counselling, group work, advocacy, training and educational sessions on a variety of topics.

Reporting to the Manager, David Kelley Services and Senior and Caregiver Services, the Counsellor will provide counselling and group work supports to seniors and their caregivers who experience elder abuse; mental health issues, including issues such as depression and anxiety; isolation, bereavement and other related issues as well as providing education and training sessions to seniors and caregivers on a range of topics. This position will also play a lead role in assisting seniors experiencing abuse to move into and live at Pat's Place – a safe haven for older people experiencing abuse. The Counsellor may be required to travel to the client's home throughout Toronto when clients are unable to travel to an FST office.

In applying, please clearly identify how you meet the specific qualifications outlined.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide assessment, safety planning, referrals and on-going counselling to seniors and their caregivers
- Provide individual, couple and/or family counselling as well as group-based supports
- Case management and system navigation supports to seniors and caregivers
- Community outreach, including networking, educational workshops and the provision of presentations
- Work with seniors to access Pat's Place, a safe haven for seniors who have been abused
- Prepare written clinical assessments, case notes, reports and letters
- Conduct provincially-mandated assessments (interRAI preliminary screener and CHA)
- Participate in funder lead/required initiatives in the seniors sector
- Work independently in the community with minimal supervision
- Integrate outcome measurement tools (ORS/SRS) into clinical practice to evaluate progress of clients
- Ensure the regular and timely recording of data as required by funder(s) and as part of FST policy
- Collaborate with other staff across the agency as appropriate
- Provide supervision to students and volunteers
- Ability to work a flexible schedule including occasional evenings and/or weekends

QUALIFICATIONS

- M.S.W. or equivalent combination of education and experience over a minimum five-year period (foreign credentials and relevant experience will be considered)
- Registered Social Worker in good standing with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) or Registered Psychotherapist in good standing with the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO)
- Demonstrated clinical training, experience and competence in at least two clinical modalities (e.g. narrative, solution-focused, CBT, EMDR, mindfulness)
- Demonstrated clinical experience:
 - working with seniors and their caregivers around issues related to aging, living with chronic disease, relationship issues
 - working with older people experiencing abuse
 - working with diverse client populations, including LGBTT2SQIA+, marginalized and/or underrepresented communities
 - conducting workshops on issues related to seniors and caregivers with a variety of audiences such as caregivers, seniors, health care providers and the general public
 - conducting groups with seniors and/or caregivers
- Current knowledge of best practices in mental health (e.g. crisis de-escalation, suicide prevention, harm reduction, addictions, child abuse, domestic abuse, elder abuse)
- Lived experience as a member of a racialized or ethnic group
- Strong assessment, intervention and written documentation skills
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple tasks and set appropriate priorities in a fast-paced environment.
- Working knowledge of community resources for seniors and caregivers in the City of Toronto
- Experience using provincially mandated, sector specific assessment tools and software

- Ability to work independently in the community and as a member of a team
- Excellent listening, verbal and written communication skills with a demonstrated ability to offer counselling in English
- Possess strong administrative skills and attention to detail
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice, cultural competency and equity and inclusion
- Good computer literacy and experience with electronic data systems
- Experience supervising students and volunteers
- Criminal reference check with Vulnerable Sector Search completed within the past 12 months
- A valid Ontario driver's licence and access to a vehicle or the ability to travel throughout Toronto via public transportation

In accordance with Ontario Human Rights Code, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, and FST's Equity and Inclusion policy, accommodation will be provided in all parts of the hiring process. Applicants need to make their needs known in advance.

We thank all applicants and will contact the individuals selected for an interview.

No phone calls please.