



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (Internal/External)

Shibogama Education Support Services Program (SESS) Youth Mental Wellness Counsellor

SUMMARY OF POSITION

Under the direction of SESS Program Coordinator, the SESS Youth Mental Wellness Counsellor is responsible to deliver mental wellness services to secondary students from Shibogama communities attending NNEC and provincial schools in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay.

The SESS Youth Mental Wellness Counsellor shall develop and implement a strategic plan that will address student healing and wellness, and addresses and promotes the safety of students while attending school away from home. This includes working with parents, boarding parents, student house counsellors, and other service provider agencies.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION

1. *Develop and implement an effective mental wellness program for students from Shibogama communities attending secondary school in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay.*

Activities:

- Provide mental health counselling services to students who are demonstrating symptoms of distress and/or experiencing early indications of distress.
- Prepare needs and risk assessments for the purposes of determining client needs and treatment planning.
- Use strength-based, solution-focussed approaches with youth to determine plan of treatment.
- Arrange support for families of youth who are challenged with mental health disorders and/or addictions
- Respond appropriately and in a timely manner to crisis situations involving clients, including assessing and addressing high risk behavior (e.g. self-harm, suicide).
- Develop, coordinate and facilitate therapeutic group activities for youth that support healing and wellness.
- Visit Shibogama First Nation communities in times of crisis as a support person.
- Work closely with Elders and Cultural Practitioners to ensure that students can access appropriate traditional healing supports, when needed.

2. *Work collaboratively with other SSES program staff, schools and community partners to ensure students access mental wellness programs and services.*

Activities:

- Develop and maintain respectful, cooperative working relationships other services in the community; ensuring necessary collaboration with local resources to promote an integrated, seamless delivery of service.

- Act in a case management capacity for students; collaborating with Band Councils, home community services, school and related agencies in accordance with the Mental Health Act, and occurs with or on behalf of clients.
 - Maintain strict confidentiality guidelines regarding all clients, conversations and referrals.
 - Work with youth, guardians and service partners to coordinate referrals for specialized services (e.g. psychiatric assessments) and or residential treatment, as required.
 - Ensure that appropriate services are implemented at the community level when student has returned home during school breaks and/or under other circumstances.
3. *Assist in the development, coordination and implementation of culturally appropriate programs, workshops, activities, and presentations to promote healing and wellness.*

Activities:

- Collaborate with SESS team members and community partners to offer recreational activities, workshops that enhance the welling being for youth.
- Develop and maintain relationships with local Elders and Cultural Practitioners to include in program planning and delivery of cultural teachings and land-based activities.
- Participate in capacity building activities that are available to enhance student programming.
- Participate in both the receiving and delivery of training sessions to enhance personal and professional skills development.

4. *Perform required administrative duties to ensure program accountability and continuity.*

Activities:

- Maintain records and provide summary reports of mental wellness program (e.g. workshops hosted or facilitated, number of students accessing services, types of services accessed, etc.).
- Maintain client records according ethical practice guidelines and legislation.
- Complete annual workplan and updates.
- Complete other reports as required.
- Participate in team meetings and debriefing as directed by the SESS Program Coordinator.

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Training and Qualifications:

- Bachelor Degree from an accredited university in social work, psychology or other social science field relevant to the position.
- Membership or membership qualification in a recognized provincial regulatory body.
- Minimum two years' recent experience supporting Indigenous youth in a mental health counselling or treatment program/rehabilitation environment.
- Specialized training related to youth concurrent disorders.
- Formal training in suicide risk assessment and intervention.
- Experience facilitating individual and group sessions for youth using both Indigenous and mainstream approaches.

- Thorough understanding of Indigenous approaches to healing and wellness.
- Formal training related to trauma-informed practices appropriate to Indigenous communities.
- Fluency in Oji-Cree is preferred.
- Proficient in computer applications, filing and record keeping.
- Successful candidate must provide a clean, current CPIC and VSS.
- Must possess a valid driver's license and provide a current driving abstract.

Demonstrated Skills and Abilities:

- Excellent communication skills: oral, written and interpersonal.
- Ability to maintain confidential student case notes and files.
- Interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Ability to achieve deliverables and evaluate the effectiveness of the program.
- Ability to facilitate presentations for staff training, youth workshops and group activities.
- Ability to maintain positive public relations and partnerships.
- The ability to work effectively with parents, students, co-workers, and administrators.
- Ability to deal with stress and effectively manage time.
- Ability to work independently, as well as a member of a team.
- Strong critical thinking skills and willingness to contribute to the team.
- Ability to multi-task effectively and efficiently.
- Ability to perform work duties in an organized manner with minimal supervision.
- Demonstration of personal wellness and substance free living to act as a healthy role model for youth.
- Availability to work on call, as required.
- Must be willing and able to travel as required, to both road-accessible and fly-in communities in all weather conditions.

Term: Fixed term position

Anticipated Start Date: Flexible Start Date

Location: Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay sites.

Salary: Based on qualifications and experience

Application

Applicants must include a cover letter, resume, two references indicating most recent employer, certificate of qualifications and a recent CPIC and VSS. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, applicants must provide a signed and dated statement authorizing SFNC personnel to contact references.

Application Deadline: February 23, 2018 at 2pm

Applications must be directed to: Matthew Angees, Interim Executive Director
Shibogama First Nations Council
P.O. Box 449, 81 King Street
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A5
PH: (807) 737-2662 ext. 2280 FAX: (807) 737-1583
EMAIL: matthewa@shibogama.on.ca Website: www.shibogama.on.ca

Email and faxed resumes along with the required documentation will be accepted. We wish to thank in advance all those who submit applications.

ONLY THOSE SELECTED FOR AN INTERVIEW WILL BE CONTACTED