



Southwest Ontario
Aboriginal Health
Access Centre

SOUTHWEST ONTARIO ABORIGINAL HEALTH ACCESS CENTRE

Traditional & Trauma focused Mental Health Counsellor (2 positions)

Status: Full-Time (funding until March 31, 2021 w/ possible extension)

Location: Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, ON

Posting date: July 19, 2018

Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) is a diverse, dynamic, multiservice Indigenous health and wellness agency. We strive to provide quality, wholistic health services by sharing and promoting traditional and western health practices to enable people to live in a more balanced state of well-being. SOAHAC provides services to Indigenous people including those who live on and off reserve, status, non-status, Inuit, and Metis within the Southwest and Erie St Clair regions. SOAHAC has a mandate of ensuring that health services are accessible, of high quality, and are culturally appropriate. We are also mandated to build health care capacity within Indigenous communities. Currently, we are seeking the services of a **Traditional & Trauma focused Mental Health Counsellor** to join our interdisciplinary staff team to work at our **Deshkan Ziibiing (Chippewa of the Thames) site**.

Position Summary: This unique position is suited for a compassionate, creative, dynamic individual who possesses knowledge, skill, and experienced both a culture-based and western approach to healing and services. As part of the Mental Health Team, the **Traditional & Trauma focused Mental Health Counsellor** will be able to provide a safe therapeutic setting for families and individuals of all ages. The work will be to provide a blend of trauma focussed individual and group counselling and traditional healing methods. This will include providing Indigenous-based spiritual guidance, traditional teachings, ceremony, and healing approaches to facilitate wholistic healing of self, family, community and nation. It will also include the use of evidence based western approaches to wellness.

The successful candidate will work to achieve our mission to empower Indigenous families and individuals to live a balanced state of well-being by sharing and promoting wholistic health practices.

Experience: Direct experience working with and learning from Traditional Healers/Elders/Knowledge Keepers; use of traditional practices and knowledge to bring healing and wellness to Indigenous people, family and community; knowledge and experience working with evidence-based trauma intervention, as well as; the use of other evidence based therapeutic interventions to support people and families with crisis intervention, counselling, mental health and addictions services.

Requirements (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities):

- Masters of Social Work, Psychology or equivalent and professional membership
- Experience working with Traditional Healers/Elders/Knowledge Keepers
- Providing teachings, ceremonies and traditional healing methods
- Demonstrated ability to improve wellness through the development of focussed plans
- Certification in Evidence-based treatment of trauma (i.e. EMDR, Somatic Experiencing, Trauma focused CBT, etc.)
- Training or certification in mental health and substance abuse screening and treatment, specialized therapeutic interventions, etc.

- Awareness and understanding of child protection and First Nation involvement
- Knowledge of FNMI (First Nation, Metis, Inuit) Culture, Values, and History
- Knowledge of Health and Wellness issues pertaining to Indigenous people and communities
- Able to work a flexible schedule with some evenings and weekends
- Access to a reliable vehicle, valid Driver's license, and proof of current automobile insurance
- Computer proficiency and ability to use relevant technology (i.e. computer based data collection)
- A current and clean police vulnerable Sector Check is a condition of employment

Responsibilities:

- Accept referrals from within SOAHAC and from external partners
- Conduct intakes, screening and initial assessments using appropriate tools
- Offer teachings, ceremonies, and arrange for additional traditional supports when required
- Provide structured trauma interventions and counselling services
- Respond to crisis situations with clients as required
- Provide phone counseling and home/community visits as required
- Follow identified evidence-based, best practices and standards of practice during counseling
- Generate treatment plans and evaluate progress of treatment,
- Facilitate file closure and discharge of clients when appropriate
- Provide case management services on an as needed basis (including advocacy, case conferencing and referrals as needed)
- Complete reports for legal, CAS, school, doctor or other agencies as required
- Provide complete and consistent documentation using the EMR (Electronic Medical Record)
- Participate in the Performance Management Program and meet identified targets

This job may require additional responsibilities and duties as assigned by Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre.

Please Note: This position is based on a 35 hour (5 days) work week. Salary is competitive and subject to experience and funding. Comprehensive benefit and pension package included.

SOAHAC values diversity and is an equal opportunity employer; however hiring preference will be given to qualified Indigenous applicants. SOAHAC is committed to providing employment accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. If you require accommodation to apply or if selected to participate in an assessment process, please advise Human Resources.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your cover letter, resume, and names and contact information of 3 references (two references from a supervisor or manager) to:

Email: **careers@soahac.on.ca**

Subject line: **Traditional & Trauma focused Mental Health Counsellor - Chippewa**

Attention: **Anna-Marie Evans
Human Resources Manager
Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
425 – 427 William Street,
London, ON N6B 3E1**

Closing Date: **August 7, 2018**

Please visit Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre online at: www.soahac.on.ca or like us on www.facebook.com/soahac to learn more about us!