



Position Title: Community Mental Health Liaison
Position Type: Full-time (35 hours/week)
Reports to: Director of Behavioral Health Services
Location: West Hartford, CT
Salary Range: \$52,000. This is a grant-funded position.

Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford is searching for a Community Mental Health Liaison to join our growing team. The Community Mental Health Liaison will help us address the mental health crisis as it impacts youth and young adults in our community. The COVID-19 pandemic intensified an unprecedented mental health crisis, and JFS believes that a collaborative, community-wide response is the best way to address the immense need that area organizations are seeing.

This is full-time position with benefits, and a great opportunity to join an organization on a mission to broaden access to mental health services for children and families in our community.

Position Summary

The Community Mental Health Liaison will serve as a resource for the community, assessing the needs of youth and the adults in their lives and finding ways to better support them. The social worker will be doing significant outreach to the community, increasing conversations about mental health, and supporting groups and individuals in finding further resources as needed. The person in this position will serve as a point of contact for the various Jewish agencies and synagogues in the Greater Hartford community to turn to regarding general mental health concerns.

Role Characteristics and Responsibilities

- Engage leadership of synagogues and agencies in conversations around mental health
- Provide support to the local Jewish day schools, supplemental school and other needs at local temples, as well as teen youth groups, Hillels on university campuses, etc.
- Identify a representative from each agency that will be best suited to speak to the needs of constituents of that agency
- Identify the needs of various groups and find ways to collaborate between them (i.e. two synagogues request a bereavement group, consider offering a joint group)

- Develop a plan of action to support the needs identified in different spaces; including a series of support groups and educational training
- Develop a set of community-wide goals around mental health so that the community has shared language around common issues
- Refer people to relevant resources as needed
- Guide leadership through mental health challenges that come up in their organization (i.e. an employee expresses suicidal ideation and the organization needs to know how to respond, or a student is suspended due to drug use on campus and the faculty wants to know how to support the student and peer group)
- Connect individuals to other JFS services such as the Anja Rosenberg Kosher Food Pantry, the Money Coach, and clinical counseling
- Track data for grants including but not limited to the number of institutions partnered with, number of individuals reached, number of programs run, etc.
- Participate in training including Trauma-Informed Care
- Keep on top of communication and coordination to ensure that the needs of agencies are met on an ongoing basis. Follow up regularly
- Creatively problem-solve as needed
- With support, develop operations for collecting data, analyzing data, and reporting data on a regular basis

Knowledge and Abilities Required

- Experience with community outreach and organizing
- Ability to build relationships, and develop a network
- Ability to address groups small, medium, and large and speak about social work issues
- Ability to learn about the Greater Hartford Jewish Community and customs
- Work on-site primarily visiting other agencies and occasionally in the office and remotely
- Strong written and verbal skills
- Proficiency using Microsoft Word, Outlook, and Excel
- Proficiency with Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and other virtual meeting platforms
- Knowledge of social media as an outreach tool

Education

- Bachelor's degree in social work or related field
- MSW preferred
- Clinical social work experience a plus

Benefits

JFS offers a generous benefits package which includes:

- Health insurance available
- Life and AD&D Insurance
- Vision plan available
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Paid time off and sick time

Cultural Competence

Employees will be sensitive and responsive to the ethnic, racial, cultural, socio-economic, religious and national diversity in JFS's service population and among its employees. This role involves working with members of our community who may be experiencing food and financial insecurity. Whoever fills this roll must be empathetic and sensitive to the needs of our clients and have the ability to serve clients without judgement.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commitment

JFS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. JFS does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, criminal record, gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, past or present history of mental disability, military status, national origin, physical disability, political belief, pregnancy, race, religious creed, sex, or sexual orientation or veteran status. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and business need.

Other

All JFS employees are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to start date.