



Job Posting

Position: Family & Community Worker – Phoenix Program (F&CW)

Location: Oakville Office

Reports to: Manager of Support Services

Status: Full-time

Position Overview:

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to support an established mental health charity? The Schizophrenia Society of Ontario (SSO) is hiring a Family & Community Worker – Phoenix Program for our Oakville office. The Family & Community Worker (F&CW) position is a partnership between SSO and the Phoenix Program, an early-intervention-in-psychosis program located across three sites in the Halton Region.

The SSO F&CW plays an integral clinic-to-community linkage role within the Phoenix Program. This role works in an integrated manner with the three clinical site teams and provides support services to clients and their families. The F&CW works closely with Phoenix Family Workers to facilitate family support groups and plan community-based educational opportunities throughout the Halton region. This role also works in collaboration with Peer Workers and the Phoenix Occupational Therapist (OT) to deliver social recreational opportunities for Phoenix clients.

The Schizophrenia Society of Ontario (SSO) is a leading charitable health organization supporting individuals, families, caregivers and communities affected by schizophrenia and psychosis across the province since 1979. Our aim is to make positive changes in the lives of people affected by schizophrenia and psychotic illness by building supportive communities through services, education, advocacy and research into the social factors that directly affect mental illness. SSO's innovation initiative, the Institute for Advancements in Mental Health (IAM), aims to improve the quality of life for people with mental illness. Through innovative solutions that help people in our communities who are impacted by mental illness, SSO hopes to change the way society looks at mental illness.

Key Areas of Responsibility:

Family Support

In collaboration with the clinical team, develop and implement Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI)-specific family education programs incorporating the recovery model into the curriculum:

- Plan and implement family support groups and psychoeducation sessions
- Develop Phoenix family peer-support program
- Provide families post-discharge support through monthly community support groups and psychoeducation sessions in the Halton Region

Client Support

Working with members of the Phoenix team such as Peer Mentors and OT to develop and co-facilitate recreational and therapeutic programming:

- Support the continued development of client peer groups
- Implement and facilitate client walking groups in collaboration with OT
- Develop new opportunities for community building among Phoenix families and clients

SSO Client Support

- Provide supportive counselling and system navigation to individuals and families
- Work collaboratively with team members to identify service gaps, develop programs and services, and implement evaluation tools to meet client needs and ensure quality of services

Program Development and Evaluation:

- Work collaboratively with team members to identify service gaps and develop programming to meet client needs
- Develop and implement evaluation tools to determine program effectiveness and inform service provision

Public Education:

- Lead public education events for Phoenix Program and SSO (agency presentations, community displays, etc.) in collaboration with the Phoenix Program Coordinator and Western Region Lead as appropriate
- Increase community knowledge of psychosis/EPI (with particular focus on youth and other high-risk populations)

Partnerships:

- Participate in Phoenix Program partnership meetings as required
- Maintain and seek opportunities for collaborative working relationships with other mental health and addictions agencies in Halton
- Participate in community committees and represent the Phoenix Program at Early Psychosis Intervention Ontario Network (EPION) meetings
- Support the Western Region Team of SSO with event planning, meeting coordination, etc.

Education and Experience:

- MSW, BSW or equivalent and at least 3 years of related work experience
- Proven experience in counselling and providing therapeutic interventions with families that are evidence-based (CBT, DBT, strength-based and solution focus)

- Open and collaborative team player who is able to work effectively with team members across three Phoenix sites
- Strong group facilitation skills
- Experience in program development and evaluation
- Excellent knowledge of community resources in the Halton region
- Strong understanding of the Mental Health Act
- Self-directed and experienced in leading program implementation
- Highly flexible and experienced working within diverse communities and populations
- Ability to work flexible hours, including some evening work
- Access to a vehicle and ability to travel throughout Halton Region
- Knowledge of French is considered an asset

Work Environment:

- The position will require work in both traditional office settings as well as community settings working closely with people living with mental illness and sector partners.
- This position may require some evening and weekend work or travel around the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN region, its surrounding communities and out downtown Toronto office.

The Schizophrenia Society of Ontario is committed to equity in employment and actively seeks applicants from diverse backgrounds.

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please submit your resume and cover letter (one document in Word or pdf format) by **February 18, 2020** via e-mail to info@schizophrenia.on.ca.

We thank all applicants in advance, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.