



Title: Bilingual Bicultural (BL/BC) Family Counselor

Job Summary:

The primary role of the BL/BC Family Counselor is to provide support, advocacy, safety planning, counseling and educational services to children and adults who come to the Women's Center for non-shelter and/or shelter services through domestic violence, sexual assault and resource programs. This position is to be carried out while empowering victims with respect to their safety and their right to self-determination.

Specific Job Functions:

Direct services to non-sheltered and sheltered adult victims:

- Provide client intake and advocacy;
- Provide 24 hour hotline coverage some days, week nights and weekends;
- Provide emergency shelter if appropriate;
- Provide weekly support and educational groups;
- Advocate with outside systems regarding clients' needs;
- Provide individual domestic and sexual violence counseling and advocacy;
- Assist clients in developing safety plans which address clients' particular situations, including safety planning for leaving, for staying and for long range planning;
- Assist parents in developing safety plans which include their children;
- Provide clients with information and referrals to resources outside the program;
- Provide Victim Compensation information and assistance in filing compensation forms to clients;
- Other services as deemed necessary.

Support and Advocacy Services

- Safety planning
- Risk assessment
- Needs assessment
- Emergency shelter (including safe homes if appropriate)
- Advocacy including but not limited to the following: Children's services and advocacy, Legal system advocacy, Medical Advocacy, Substance abuse advocacy, Behavioral health advocacy, Housing advocacy, Other social service advocacy
- Transportation to meet emergency needs and all case management goals
- Information, education and referral
- Basic living needs
- Application assistance, support and advocacy for:
- OVS victim compensation program
- OVS SAVIN
- Safe at Home (address confidentiality)
- Witness Protection

Information and educational resource services to sheltered and non-sheltered adult victims:

- Provide written educational information to adult clients about domestic violence, sexual assault and its effects on victims, as well as, effects on children;
- Provide to clients a state and local listing of available resources, such as, health clinics, mental health services, housing information, public transportation, legal resources, immigration referrals, food and clothing, welfare offices, local school information, youth services, child care, job training and employment opportunities.

Evaluation

- Distribute and collect client survey for each client receiving in person services;
- As feasible, complete a client survey for each client receiving phone services.

Administration

- Maintain client files and make sure statistical information on services are complete
- Attend meetings as necessary
- Maintain complete monthly and quarterly reports according to CCADV & Alliance contracts
- Comply with other responsibilities as specifically required under the CCADV and Alliance Sub-Contracts

Other Requirements

- Maintain in compliance with Connecticut statutes: C.G.S.52-146 including but not limited to: Privilege: C.G.S. 52-146K; Confidential Communication: C.G.S. 52-146(B) & C.G.S.52-146(F), C.G.S.52-146k(e); and Confidential Record Keeping: C.G.S.52-146 (i)
- Work collaboratively with other Women's Center staff and actively participate in the daily operations of the Women's Center
- Works collaboratively with member programs and builds strong, positive relationships.
- Builds effective, cooperative, positive relationships with co-workers
- Takes initiative and/or independent action to ensure work responsibilities are carried out fully and completely
- Adapts to changing job priorities in Women's Center's needs. Remains open to new ideas and developing new skills as needed.
- Demonstrates supportive behaviors and accepts personal accountability toward Women's Center objectives and policies
- Supportive of Women's Center management and its Board of Directors
- Generates innovative solutions by drawing upon diverse sources (individuals, disciplines, bodies of knowledge) for ideas and inspiration
- Thinks expansively by combining ideas in a unique way or making connections between disparate ideas and explores different views from multiple perspectives
- Obtains information and identifies key issues and relationship relevant to long-range strategic planning for prevention of domestic violence
- Make referrals to appropriate Women's Center staff or other resources in order that requests from special initiatives for technical assistance and/or training are appropriately and adequately met
- Participate in Women's Center staff events /programs including but not limited to: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Awareness, Volunteer training and staff development
- Perform all job responsibilities in accordance with CCADV/Alliance standards Women's Center policies and procedures
- Travel as required

Qualifications.

- M.A. degree in social service or related field and/or 4+ years related experience.
- Bilingual in Spanish
- Bilingual in Portuguese a plus
- Valid driver's license
- Be certified as a battered women's and rape crisis counselor per CGS 52-146k, before providing direct services to clients;
- Must have basic computer skills

- Must be able to lift 50lbs
- Must have both a working vehicle and phone
- Bilingual is preferred
- Comprehensive working knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Comprehensive working knowledge of Safety Planning/ Client Defined Advocacy as it relates to domestic violence & sexual assault victims and the development of a plan for their safety and the preservation of their right to self-determination;
- Basic crisis intervention and counseling skills;
- Basic group facilitation skills;
- Knowledge of community resources;
- Effective oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to maintain service records, complete accurate statistical and narrative reports and submit them in a timely fashion in accordance with CCADV & Alliance Program Standards;
- Ability to gather information from and assist a diversity of victims;
- Ability to integrate and manage large amounts of information and communicate this information appropriately and effectively;
- Ability to develop effective written educational materials regarding domestic violence issues and resources available;
- Ability to develop and work with volunteers;
- Maintain certification with no less than six (10) hours of in services annually, in issues related to domestic & sexual violence and advocate job enhancement skills;
- Ability to work as an individual as well as a team member;
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills;
- Attention to detail;
- Ability to be flexible and juggle multiple demands;
- Reliable transportation and working telephone required;

Supervision:

Supervision will be provided to the BL/BC Family Counselor by an identified supervisor from the Women's Center. The supervisor will oversee the work of the BL/BC Family Counselor; sign the BL/BC Program Reports; conduct verbal and written evaluations of the BL/BC Family Counselor as needed and on an annual basis. Additional assistance will be provided to the BL/BC Family Counselor at regular meetings facilitated by the Women's Center, CCADV, Alliance and through training programs and materials.

Accountability: Chief Operating Officer

Hours of work: 35 Hours

Classification: Full Time Non-Exempt