



Denver Children's Advocacy Center

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant (contracted with Adam's County HeadStart)
Reports to: Director of Community Outreach
Status: Full Time - Exempt

The mission of Denver Children's Advocacy Center is to prevent abuse, strengthen families and restore childhood. DCAC serves children who have been sexually abused, neglected, or traumatized by witnessing violence. We are one of 17 child advocacy centers in Colorado providing friendly, family-supportive services in one central location, or close by. Our goal is to ensure that every child in Denver and neighboring counties who has been traumatized by sexual abuse, or by witnessing homicide or domestic violence receives immediate, compassionate and effective investigation, assessment and, if needed, mental health treatment.

DCAC is committed to providing services, along with a broad network of community partners, to all communities and populations in Denver. We are committed to the ongoing work of providing quality and culturally responsive services to children and families of all backgrounds and identities.

General Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all DCAC employees to support DCAC's mission and goals, to respect the confidentiality of all who come to us for assistance, and to personally maintain the dignity and integrity of one who is placed in a position of public trust. We all bear the responsibility of improving the organization, communicating openly, empowering each other to excel at our work and to dedicate ourselves to inclusivity.

Summary of Position

This position is responsible for providing early childhood mental health consultation to Adam's County HeadStart within the context of a community-based system. The consultant will identify and implement specialized services to children ages 3-5 utilizing a collaborative and prevention-based approach. This position is employed by DCAC, and the consultant will be expected to fulfill certain obligations as a DCAC staff member, such as attending staff meetings and trainings. As this position is contracted to provide consultation services for Adam's County HeadStart, most of the consultant's time will be spent at ACHS centers, fulfilling the duties and responsibilities listed below.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Form collaborative relationships and provide early childhood mental health consultation to teachers, families, and other professionals.
- Assess for needs regarding individual, classroom, or center-wide consultation, providing appropriate level of support
- Utilize screening tools to explore the use of socioemotional strategies in classrooms program wide. Summarize and utilize findings to inform coaching goals.

- Work with teachers and families to create Behavior Support Plans for students who exhibit a severe, ongoing need for behavioral support
- Provide coaching to teachers who have students that demonstrate a severe, ongoing need for behavioral support
- Refer children and/or families for further assessment or therapy to manage behavioral health or developmental challenges and connect with other Mental Health Community agencies to provide resources to ACHS families.
- Participating in support services, Individualized Educational Plan meetings (IEP), Collaborative meetings, meetings with families, staff and other professionals
- Foster an understanding of the theories of trauma, attachment, child development and early childhood mental health and how these impact behaviors, emotional regulation and learning
- Work closely with ACHS administrators to find the best ways to connect with the centers, address their needs and coordinate consultation and coaching services
- Attend monthly reflective practice groups with ECMHC at DCAC to share information, resources and case review
- Provide training to caregivers, teachers, and staff on a variety of topics related to child development, behavior management, supporting children's mental health and trauma informed classroom practices
- Promote the use of comprehensive screening and assessment in a wide range of settings, especially social-emotional screening
- Help improve outcomes for young children by helping their caregivers and other family members to provide healthy, safe, and secure family environments in which to learn and grow
- Potential for providing services to families in-home when needed
- Potential for providing services to families during the Summer
- Support DCAC as required during group activities during the Summer
- Attend bi-weekly Community Outreach meetings if schedule allows
- Provide monthly reports that include data aligned with ongoing mental health practices and specific consultant tasks to support program evaluation.
- Assist in the development and implementation of tracking and monitoring systems for mental health services provided to staff, children, and families.

Competency

To perform the outlined duties and responsibilities successfully, the person in this position should demonstrate the following competencies:

- Tolerate an indoor environment with frequent interruptions, loud noises and demands
- Demonstrate integrity and professionalism managing confidential material and sensitive situations
- Demonstrate confidence in leadership and team-building ability
- Participate actively in individual and group supervision at ACHS and DCAC
- Identify and implement strategies to support ACHS program
- Adapt strategy to changing conditions and communicate changes effectively
- Speak clearly and effectively in positive or negative situations
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with other community partners and administrators
- Possess leadership and interpersonal skills necessary to promote communication and relationship building with leadership and community partners
- Demonstrate respect and sensitivity for cultural differences

- Continue to build on knowledge and skills
- Demonstrate persistence in meeting difficult challenges
- Flexibility to changes in schedule and demands

Qualifications

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required to perform this job successfully. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Master's degree in psychology; Counseling, Social work and/or another related human services field preferred
- Has means of transportation and is comfortable driving in different rural areas as needed and in all types of weather.
- Knowledge of child development, child abuse and the effects of child abuse
- Knowledge of early development, infant/preschool mental health theory and infant/ preschool mental health interventions and trauma informed care in education setting
- Experience supporting children, families and teachers in education setting
- Familiar with reflective and coaching practices
- Understanding of developmental delays and disabilities
- Ability to create strong relationships with adults and children with an understanding of, and respect for, culture and diversity
- Spanish language skills considered a plus
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must pass a background check

Benefits

Salary range: \$60,000 - \$65,000 annually. Denver Children's Advocacy Center offers an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, and vision insurance, as well as a retirement plan option.

Denver Children's Advocacy Center is an equal opportunity employer and seeks a diverse applicant pool.

To apply for this position, please email your resume and cover letter to Christa Summers - csummers@denvercac.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.