



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (Internal/External)**

### **Mental Wellness Counsellor – Mental Wellness Team Shibogama First Nations Health Authority**

#### **Program Description**

The Shibogama Mental Wellness Team (MWT) is a specialized consultative team of professionals knowledgeable in the areas of social work, psychology, Indigenous knowledge and healing, and mental health and addictions. The team will work with the leadership and front line workers of the Shibogama communities to meet the following objectives:

- Improve access to needed specialized services where gaps exist
- Enhance knowledge, skills and capacities of community front line workers
- Provide support via a team approach of consultation, clinical supervision, coaching and mentoring.
- Build and/or strengthen bridges between traditional and mainstream approaches to wellness.

Services and activities to support these objectives will include:

- Supporting community crisis prevention, through early intervention.
- Addressing the needs of high-risk individuals with complex mental health issues by providing coordinated, multi-disciplinary mental health supports and interventions.
- Providing pre-crisis surveillance to prevent and/or reduce the level of impending crisis and to ensure Health Directors, Chiefs and Councils as well as local and regional partners are informed and prepared to provide required response.
- Engaging and being a part of the broader network of supports that include treatment centers, mental health crisis intervention teams and other community based services as well as link with federal and provincial governments to facilitate care coordination and improve access to culturally appropriate quality care.
- Mobilizing the team based on requests from First Nation communities affected by crisis.
- Providing culturally appropriate, direct crisis response services.
- Providing indirect, culturally appropriate, crisis response support to develop the capacity of individuals and communities to respond to and manage crisis.
- Developing criteria for crisis intervention and develop crisis protocol plans in collaboration with the member communities and other responsible agencies (e.g. provincial health services/emergency response, Health Canada (NIHB).

#### **Responsibilities of the Mental Wellness Counsellor Position:**

- Provide community-based mental health counselling regarding the cause, symptoms and prevention strategies of various mental health diagnoses.
- Prepare needs and risk assessments for the purposes of determining client needs and treatment planning.

- Provide support for families dealing with mental health disorders and/or addictions and/or referrals for additional treatment.
- Respond appropriately and in a timely manner to crisis situations involving clients, including assessing and addressing high risk behavior (self-harm, suicide).
- Develop and maintain respectful, cooperative working relationships other services in the community, ensuring necessary collaboration with local resources to promote an integrated, seamless delivery of service.
- Maintain strict confidentiality guidelines regarding all clients, conversations and referrals.
- Assist in the development, coordination and implementation of culturally appropriate programs, workshops, activities, and presentations, increasing the awareness and understanding regarding issues such as:
  - Lateral kindness/lateral violence
  - Respectful relationships/domestic violence
  - Substance use and addictions
  - Healthy parenting
  - Life skills (employment, budgeting, healthy cooking, etc)
  - Traditional land based skills
- Report to and receive direction from the program coordinator.
- Participate in team meetings and debriefing as directed.

### **Required Qualifications**

- Minimum Bachelor degree from an accredited university/college in Social Work, Psychology or other Social Science field relevant to the position.
- Minimum two years' recent related experience in a mental health and substance use environment, or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.
- Counselling experience within a First Nations context.
- Group facilitation experience in both traditional First Nations approaches and mainstream approaches, general competency in concurrent disorders.
- Thorough understanding of Indigenous approaches to healing and wellness approaches.
- Training related to trauma-informed practices appropriate to Indigenous communities.
- Fluency in Oji-Cree is preferred.
- Excellent written and oral communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent computer knowledge, filing and record keeping.
- Able to work independently, as well as a member of a team.
- Regular travel to remote First Nation communities is a requirement of the position.
- Membership or membership qualification in a recognized provincial regulatory body.
- Successful candidate must provide a clean, current CPIC and VSS.

**Term:** Full-time position

**Anticipated Start Date:** December 4, 2017

**Location:** Sioux Lookout

**Salary:** Is based on qualifications and experience

**Application**

Applicants must include a cover letter, resume, two references indicating most recent employer, certificate of qualification and a recent CPIC and VSS. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, applicants must provide a signed and dated statement authorizing SFNHA personnel to contact references.

**Application Deadline:** November 24, 2017 at 4pm

**Applications must be directed to:** Allan Brown, Health Director  
Shibogama First Nations Council  
P.O. Box 449, 81 King Street  
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A5  
PH: (807) 737-2662 ext. 2236 FAX: (807) 737-4099  
E-MAIL: [allanb@shibogama.on.ca](mailto:allanb@shibogama.on.ca) Website: [www.shibogama.on.ca](http://www.shibogama.on.ca)

Email and faxed resumes along with the required documentation will be accepted. Only those interviewed will be contacted. We wish to thank in advance all those who submit applications.

**ONLY THOSE SELECTED FOR AN INTERVIEW WILL BE CONTACTED**