

Health Navigator, Harm Reduction (Peer)

One vacancy. 1-year contract, with the possibility of extension (21 hours/week)

Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre (Parkdale Queen West CHC) is a dynamic, community-based health care organization serving mid-west downtown Toronto. Offering a broad range of services, including primary health care, dental care, harm reduction, health promotion, counselling, and community development programming, we are also committed to serving people who face barriers to health care, and we strive to reduce these barriers. PQWCHC is a multi-sited organization.

General Responsibilities: The Health Navigator (HN) is an entry level role responsible for short-term task focused client work for individuals who use drugs. HN's are expected to collaborate with interdisciplinary harm reduction team to facilitate health and social care attachments for people who use drugs through supportive conversations, education, advocacy, and accompaniments.

Reporting Manager: Manager of Urban Health – Harm Reduction Services

Program and Service Delivery

1. Build professional and trusting relationships with clients and service users who use drugs, provide supportive conversations.
2. Use brief assessment, crisis response, and just-listening skills to help meet immediate, basic needs and make appropriate referrals to other health and support services.
3. Collaborate with Harm Reduction Fixed Site Coordinator to identify clients and service users who are seeking access to support and referrals.
4. Provide client accompaniment support, as identified (HIV testing, medical, legal, housing etc....).
5. Practice client advocacy when needed and support clients in being active in their care.
6. Support client transitions to independence by encouraging self-reliance around tasks of daily living.
7. Facilitate attachments to health and social care.
8. In partnership with Fixed Site Coordinator, develop and facilitate client engagement initiatives such as Drop-Ins, One-on-One activities, Surveying etc....
9. Provide clients with needed harm reduction supplies.
10. Providing educational opportunities for people who use drugs including safer drug use, HIV, Hep C preventions and overdose prevention.
11. Support the development of program structure and activities to increase capacity and develop a strong program model.
12. Complete administrative tasks in a timely manner
13. Maintain healthy and professional relationships with community partners and program stakeholders.
14. Participate in evaluation activities.
15. Employ creative problem solving to address client related issues.
16. Respond to client crisis and employ de-escalation interventions, respond to overdose.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. You bring substantial knowledge of drug use, specifically injection drug use, acquired through a combination of work experience, lived experience and/or education or training, are familiar with community services and resources, and respect and value the diversity of communities and individuals.
2. Experience with health navigation and client support
3. 2 years of harm reduction experience in a community setting working with homeless and marginalized populations including people who inject drugs.
4. Experience working with staff and service users who come from diverse racial, gender, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds and who may have lived experienced of homelessness, living in poverty, mental health, social isolation, and substance use.
5. Working with people who use drugs, racialized populations, Indigenous peoples, people who engage in sex work, prisoners/ex-prisoners, people with mental health challenges, and people who have experienced trauma.
6. Strong understanding of and commitment to harm reduction, trauma-informed, and anti-oppression practices.
7. Confident in asserting and maintaining strong boundaries.
8. Advocacy, crisis intervention and prevention, conflict resolution, and negotiation skills.
9. Knowledge of community-based resources.
10. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
11. Computer literacy.



The Harm Reduction team at Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre is committed to representing the communities we serve. People with experience using drugs, working in the sex trade, Indigenous people, racialized people, people from the LGBTTT2SQQIA community, people living with HIV, people with experiences of incarceration and institutionalization, people who have experienced trauma, and people who have experienced homelessness or street involvement will be given special consideration.

Compensation: \$ 22.15 per hour + 4% vacation pay. 21 hours a week.

Application forms are available onsite at our Queen West location, 168 Bathurst St., for those without access to computer and can be completed in writing.

Please forward your resume and cover letter or hand-written application form by February 7, 2023 to the hiring committee through the following channels:

Email (or drop-off) your cover letter and resume or hand-written application form (as one document) ASAP, we will be contacting qualified applicants for interviews as resumes come in. In the subject line of your email please include what is shown below.

**E-Mail: TWatts@pqwchc.ca
Subject Line: Health Navigator**

OR

**Drop-in: Application to the attention of Tyler Watts
Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre**

**Queen West site: 168 Bathurst St., Toronto ON M5V 2R4
We regret that only those to be interviewed will be contacted.**

Employment is conditional upon having had a full series of COVID-19 vaccinations (2 doses plus a booster within 6-12 months) 14 days before starting employment.