



### **Counsellors - Safer Opioid Supply (SOS)**

**2 Full-Time, up to 15 Month Temporary Contracts (with the possibility of extension), at 1.0 FTE each (35hours/week), Bargaining Unit – UFCW – Local 175**

**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.

Reporting to the Safer Opioid Supply Supervisor, you will provide short term clinical counselling and occasional follow up support (including referrals and light case management) to address the mental health needs and social determinants of health for Safer Opioid Supply (SOS) clients. You will work with individuals who have an extensive history of complex trauma mental health and substance use, impacted by issues of structural and lateral violence. You will be expected to provide counselling through a harm reduction and client-driven lens. In the context of being responsive to the needs of individuals who experience multiple living precarities, you will be expected to meet clients in community settings in partnerships with other SOS staff. Consistent with your training and experience, you will conduct therapeutic assessments, provide appropriate treatment based on your case formulation using a trauma-informed motivational interviewing approach along with other evidence-based modalities and apply creative engagement strategies that build trust with clients who've experience fractures in therapeutic care. This program has been funded only to March 31, 2023.

**Specific Responsibilities:** As a SOS Counsellor you will:

- You will be delivering rapid stabilization support, brief therapy and therapeutic engagement to SOS clients from both Base and Mobile SOS teams. This will be case load-based work.
- You will facilitate SOS client transitions to longer term counselling when and where appropriate
- Envision, develop and deliver creative therapeutic engagement strategies (e.g., counselling drop-ins, social-rec opportunities etc.)
- Contribute to the development of overall therapeutic program structure and activities to increase capacity and develop a strong SOS counselling program model
- Meet clients at PQWCHC sites and out in community settings
- Communicate professionally with all members of the SOS multidisciplinary team to ensure continuous SOS support needs are met
- Work with other SOS program staff to meet clients participating in various activities such as advisories, observed arm, research settings and other connection opportunities to build positive rapport and trust
- You will work with other service providers to address gaps in service or required services and liaise with community agencies and institutions regarding issues relevant to client needs.
- Provide harm reduction counselling knowledge exchange
- Collect relevant data for to satisfy the funding requirements
- Maintaining timely and appropriate electronic documentation
- Participate in cross team meetings (mental health & counselling team meetings and SOS team meetings) and participate in group and individual clinical supervision

*PQWCHC is committed to the principles of access and equity. PQWCHC is committed to reflecting the diversity of the communities it serves and we encourage applicants who reflect Toronto's indigenous, LGBTQ2, racial, and cultural diversity. We welcome and encourage applications from all qualified candidates, including people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request. Parkdale Queen West CHC is in full compliance of the Ontario Human Rights Code and does not discriminate on the ground of records of offenses.*



**PARKDALE  
QUEEN WEST**  
Community  
Health Centre

## **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL POSTING**

**2.0 FTE – Full-Time Temporary Positions**

**1 at the Parkdale Site**

**1 at the Queen West Site**

- Participate in the overall activities of the Health Centre (training, committees, special events, etc.) and follow all PQWCHC policies and protocols.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Graduate degree in relevant discipline from a recognized university.
- Member in good standing with the OCSWSSW or CRPO.
- Proficiency in mental health assessment and counseling techniques that are trauma-informed and strength-resiliency-based.
- Experience providing harm reduction informed counselling to individual in a community setting working with homeless and marginalized populations including people who inject illicit drugs.
- Knowledge of and experience in motivational interviewing and staged matched interventions.
- Training and experience with a variety of responsive treatment interventions (e.g., brief therapy, CBT, DBT, motivational interviewing techniques, etc.).
- Demonstrated ability to work with multi-disciplinary teams.
- Strong understanding of and commitment to harm reduction, trauma-informed, and anti-oppression practices.
- Extensive advocacy, crisis intervention and prevention, conflict resolution, and negotiation skills.
- Extensive knowledge of community-based resources.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Proficiency with digital communication tools and demonstrated computer literacy.

**Salary Range:** \$63,364 to \$74,056 per annum including Group Benefits and HOOPP (Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan)

If you are interested in joining a creative and dedicated team to make things better, we want to hear from you. Please send your resume and cover letter **in a single document** (MS Word or PDF format only) to **hiring@pqwchc.ca**, quoting **“SOS Counsellor”** in the subject line. Internal candidates, please submit your application by 5:00 pm on January 17, 2022. External candidates the deadline to apply is by January 28, 2022.

We truly appreciate your interest; however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Please also note that the successful candidate will be required to provide a vulnerable sector screening check as a condition of employment.

Please do not delay in submitting your application, as we will be reviewing them and contacting those we screen-in as we receive them.

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