BASIC FUNCTION

To provide resources to those struggling with homelessness due to substance use disorders and mental illness. To divert from the legal system by working alongside law enforcement in response to individuals in social and emotional crisis.

STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

1. Accompany law enforcement in Snohomish County to assess the needs of individuals encountered and provide appropriate interventions to those struggling with homelessness due to substance use disorders and mental illness.

2. Meet with individuals in various settings in the community including, but not limited to: homeless encampments, shelters, parks, jails, clinics, hospitals, courthouses, and other public venues where homeless individuals congregate.

3. Follow-up with referrals from law enforcement of individuals who may benefit from program interventions and services.

4. Collaborate with outside service providers to bridge gaps in existing community social services to better serve the unique needs of individuals encountered and help reduce barriers experienced by populations.

5. Work as a multi-disciplinary team to assess client needs and create wrap around support services to address Substance Use Disorder treatment, detox services, Medication Assisted Treatment, mental health support, transportation needs, housing, employment, legal obligations, and all other areas related to overall wellbeing.

6. Provide local, state, and regional resource information, referrals, and advocacy.

7. Cultivate and maintain collaborative working relationships with professionals from various law enforcement agencies, fire departments, courts, community service providers, housing providers, and systems that serve client population.

8. Collect and maintain accurate data and case records in accordance with HIPAA (45 CFR Parts 160) and Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records (42 CFR Part 2).

9. Continue program development to meet ongoing and changing needs to best serve the homeless population within Snohomish County.

10. Perform all job duties on the continuum of care spectrum for those struggling with addiction.
11. Willing and able to be a part of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Team as an essential employee in emergencies.

STATEMENT OF OTHER JOB DUTIES

12. Performs related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

A Master’s degree in Social Work, Psychology, Counseling and/or guidance, or related field PLUS two (2) years’ experience in the direct treatment of acutely and severely mentally ill clients OR, any equivalent combination of training and/or experience that provides the required knowledge and abilities. Must pass job related tests.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

A valid Washington State Driver’s License is required for employment.

Licensure or Associate Licensure in Social Work, Mental Health Counselling, Marriage and Family Therapy, or licensure as a Substance Use Disorder Professional or Substance Use Disorder Professional in Training, or Agency Affiliated Licensure, along with maintenance of this licensure throughout the period of employment.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Substance use disorder assessments and mental health assessments
- Crisis intervention and counseling techniques and methods
- Mental health and co-occurring symptomatology and treatment modalities
- Abnormal behavior, symptomatology, and treatment modalities of mental disorders
- Available community resources, including substance use disorder treatment agencies, mental health treatment agencies, community health facilities, and other community resources utilized by the client population
- Judicial procedures, sentencing implications, and the corrections environment
- Importance of natural support systems
- Related state and federal mandates, including those related to privacy and confidentiality

 Ability to:

- Respond effectively to crisis situations
- Relate to severely disturbed and/or difficult persons in order to determine appropriate behavioral health services
SNOHOMISH COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER
 Spec No. 2425

- Establish and maintain rapport with those experiencing symptoms of substance use and/or mental illness in order to determine appropriate community resources and services
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff or interdisciplinary teams, law enforcement, and other community providers
- Efficiently coordinate, perform, and complete multiple duties and assignments concurrently and in a timely manner, often without access to traditional office technology
- Promote strength-based, client-driven, recovery-focused treatment approaches
- Exercise initiative and judgment and make decisions within the scope of assigned authority

SUPERVISION
Employee reports to an administrative superior as assigned. The work is performed with considerable independence and is reviewed for quality, adequacy of professional judgment and compliance with established goals and policies through conferences, reports, and appraisal of results obtained.

WORKING CONDITIONS
The majority of the work involves riding alongside law enforcement in the community, doing proactive outreach in homeless encampments and any areas in the community where homeless individuals congregate. Follow protocols from the corresponding law enforcement agency, which includes wearing ballistic vests. Working in environments where biohazards exist. Minimal work is performed in the usual office environment.

Snohomish County is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities are provided upon request.

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EEO policy and ADA notice

Class Established: January 2022
EEO Category: 2 - Professionals
Pay Grade: 241 – Classified Pay Plan
Workers Comp: 5306 Non-Hazardous