

## **Addendum**

### **Early Childhood Intervention (Infant Mental Health) Specialist**

The primary responsibility of this specialist is to provide mental health services to children aged 0-6 and their families by screening, assessing, and treating mental health needs in co-ordination with community professionals and agencies.

#### **Duties specific to this position include:**

- Developing extensive liaison with community partners both internal and external to the ministry such as adult mental health, schools, hospitals, public health services, family physicians, general practitioners, psychiatrists, community agencies, advocacy agencies, aboriginal communities, libraries, recreation centres, ethnic and cultural groups, and research and teaching
- Ensuring services are coordinated across public health and primary care, early child development, schools, special needs, child protection and addictions services right into adult services;
- Promoting evidence-based services as the standard of care, backed up by training, education and monitoring;
- Providing new resources for early intervention programs dealing with serious mental illness;
- Reducing children's risk of developing mental illness through means such as public education and expert involvement across sectors;
- Building capacity in families and communities so they are better able to prevent and mitigate potential effects of harmful factors in a child's environment.
- Provides a consultative/educative service (including mental health consultation, program consultation, service system planning, community coordination, and education and health promotion) to community agency staff and other service providers who provide services to children and youth with emotional behavioural disturbances, including physicians, schools, foster homes, child protection, day-care facilities, infant development programs, family centres, probation offices, hospital staff and other health care workers. Develops and presents information/education sessions and workshops.
- Through local committees and advisory structures and in collaboration with other agencies, community professionals, and regional authorities, contributes with research, assessment and clinical skills to the ongoing planning, development, evaluation and modification of a comprehensive range of services including prevention programs for children.