

Addendum Early Intervention Specialist/Risk Reduction

The primary responsibilities of this specialist will be taking a proactive approach in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the risk reduction and capacity building components of the Ministry's mental health program within the community.

Duties specific to this position include:

- providing a range of mental health services to parents and children at risk of developing a mental disorder, including: direct treatment services to children/youth and their families;
- Increasing family and community capacity to recognize and detect symptoms of mental illnesses.
- Consulting on mental health issues to the community; liaison with community agencies, schools, hospitals, and families; and education around mental health issues.
- Working with MCFD staff in youth justice and child protection: to build awareness of the complex dynamics involved when working with families and children at risk of a mental health disorder; and to provide services to clients with multiple risk factors.
- Working with Community Living BC (CLBC): to develop and assist with services to dually diagnosed children and adolescents.
- Playing a key role in developing support networks for parents and children/youth diagnosed with mental illness, including self help networks, advocacy support networks, family youth involvement, etc.
- Establishing relationships with a number of highly complex community groups, often addressing divergent agendas and crossing a number of boundaries to gain agreement that will ultimately build community capacity to meet the unique needs of children and youth challenged with mental health disorders.
- Speaking in public forums, and have a good understanding of emotional and cultural sensitivities to address and establish early interventions within the region.
- Key linkages will be created with health care providers in Aboriginal communities, Health Canada, and Health Authorities when assisting with the development of child and youth mental health services in their communities.
- Working with Physicians and other health care professionals in acute care settings under the Shared Care Model: to increase capacity of these professionals to not only recognize, but work with children and adolescents at risk of mental illness.