



**PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
JOB DESCRIPTION**

JOB TITLE: Mental Health Clinician **CURRENT CLASSIFICATION/GRID:** Nurse 7 **CHIPS #**

NOC CODE: **DATE OF JOB DESCRIPTION:**

JOB TITLE OF IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR **SUPERVISOR'S CLASS/GRID** **CHIPS #**

BRANCH Child and Youth Mental Health **DIVISION** Provincial Services Division **LOCATION**

PURPOSE OF UNIT:

The Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) program provides a wide range of community-based specialized mental health assessment and treatment services to mentally ill children and their families. Other services targeted to assist children and youth with mental illness include community development, consultation, co-ordination, education, and contract management.

PURPOSE OF JOB:

Under the direction of the Clinical Supervisor, this position works as a member of a multi-disciplinary Community Mental Health Team. In co-ordination with other community agencies and professionals, provides a range of mental health services, with a nursing focus, including: direct clinical services such as intake, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and crisis intervention; medication monitoring, consultation/liaison with community agencies, schools, hospitals, and other MCFD programs; involvement in community education, development, co-ordination and prevention/early intervention programs; and program development and evaluation.

JOB DUTIES AND TASKS:

65%

1. Provides a range of direct clinical services to children/youth with serious emotional/behavioural disorders, their families and caregivers:
 - a) Undertakes bio-psycho-social assessments including mental status exams
 - b) Completes diagnoses (according to DSM IV) for the purpose of developing treatment plans
 - c) Develops treatment plans
 - d) Provides individual, family, and/or group therapy to children/youth and their families
 - e) Functions as a primary therapist, utilizing a variety of specialized treatment modalities and therapies, for children, youth and their families
 - f) Monitors treatment and/or care plans and evaluates treatment outcomes
 - g) Makes occasional home visits for the purpose of treatment
 - h) Maintains advanced knowledge of psycho-tropic medications as prescribed by a physician, maintaining an awareness of the effects of such medications
 - i) Monitors psychotropic medication (and occasionally administers medication as required)
 - j) Counsels/supports clients & families around issues related to medication and its effects

- k) Provides counselling/support/education to families and other relevant caregivers of such children to understand the nature, treatment and prognosis of the mental health condition of the child/youth and assist with methods of coping
- l) Consults/liaises with community professionals
- m) Maintains appropriate clinical/client/administrative records

15%

- 2. Provides a consultative/educative service from a nursing perspective to community agency staff and other service providers who provide services to children and youth with emotional and 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:
 - a) organizes/participates in information/education sessions
 - b) organizes/participates in workshops
 - c) encourages the development of mutual support forums

15%

- 4. Through local committees and advisory structures and in collaboration with other agencies, community professionals and regional authorities, participates in the ongoing planning, development, evaluation and modification of a comprehensive range of services including prevention programs for children and youth.

5%

- 5. Performs other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS POSITION

Education and/or occupational certification:

Licensed to practice nursing in the Province of British Columbia under the Registered Nursing Association of BC and/or the College of Registered Psychiatric Nursing of BC; a Baccalaureate degree from a recognized university in a field relevant to the position.

Required Experience:

Minimum 2 years clinical experience working in child and youth mental health services, with responsibility for providing a wide range of community based mental health services.

Knowledge:

- Child and youth psychological, social, cognitive, and physical development
- Major behavioural, emotional and mental health problems and disorders of children and youth
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders
- Professional ethics and approaches to resolve ethical dilemmas in the work with clients.
- Well established accepted practices and evidence based clinical intervention methods and their appropriate applications
- Psychotropic medications used with children and youth and their side effects
- Integrated Case Management

Skills and Abilities:

- Function independently as a primary therapist demonstrating sound clinical judgement in the assessment and treatment of children and youth with mental health issues and disorders;
- Provide comprehensive assessment and treatment planning to children and youth
- Provide individual, group and family therapy
- Administer psychotropic medication and monitor possible side effects
- Ability to apply professional ethics to the general work situation
- Apply essential skills to conduct suicide assessments and crisis interventions
- Administer and score mental health-related test instruments appropriate to the profession
- Establish and maintain effective collaborative and constructive liaisons/relationships with a variety of individuals and groups, including clients & families, physicians, schools, hospitals, other agencies, etc. in order to seek input, secure co-operation, resolve conflicts, influence outcomes and provide community consultation and education related to child and youth mental health issues;
- Prepare and deliver appropriate, clear and concise communications, both orally and in writing, to a range of internal and public audiences;
- Ability to work in a computerised environment.

The following knowledge factors must be learned on the job within the first six months and will be assessed through the individual Employee Performance and Development Plans:

- Knowledge of the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan for British Columbia and related mental health service delivery systems in the province.
- Knowledge of community, regional, cross regional, and provincial child and youth mental health services including how to access/refer clients to available resources.
- Knowledge of relevant legislation including British Columbia's: Mental Health Act, Infants Act, and Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act.

Salary will be based on child and youth mental health experience, knowledge, skills and abilities, and your training requirements.

NOTE:

Transportation arrangements must meet the operational requirements of the ministry.

May be required to use own vehicle on an expense account basis

Will be subject to satisfactory reference check, as well as criminal records review and police record check.