



Position Title: Bereavement Counsellor
Reports to: Social Work & Programs Manager
Hours of Work: 16 hours per week

Limited hire:

In order to best serve our community and counselling clients, the candidate selection for this position will be limited to members of the following designated groups: Black, Indigenous, and/or members of visible minorities. Candidates from these groups must self-identify to be considered.

Primary Function of Position

Hospice Halifax is a compassionate and supportive community of staff members, volunteers and donors dedicated to making dying and living as comfortable and meaningful as possible at the end of life. Our hospice residence is an inclusive space where individuals and their families receive personalized and dignified end-of-life care. Working in partnership with all Hospice staff, this position is responsible for supporting individuals and families across Nova Scotia dealing with the death of a loved one.

Hospice Halifax continues to take action against racism and discrimination the workplace and to identify and address systemic barriers to full and equal participation. As such, all members of the team must be committed to fostering a safe working environment where all members experience an authentic sense of inclusion and belonging.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provides short-term 1-to-1 licensed grief counselling (in-person, via phone or video link) for interested community members (residents of Nova Scotia who have experienced a death, not necessarily hospice-related)
- Acts as an secondary/alternative provider of licensed counselling to patients of Hospice Halifax and their families upon request/referral
- Creates and maintains confidential records according to both Hospice Halifax policy and regulations outlined by appropriate licensing body
- Schedules follow-up appointments with counselling clients as needed
- Attends and contributes to weekly/bi-weekly supervision meetings, monthly case consultation meetings, and quarterly team meetings
- Provides back-up coverage to Bereavement Social Worker in bereavement group facilitation and bereavement follow-up call responsibilities

- Facilitates occasional psycho-educational sessions on grief for the greater public upon request/invitation
- May host debriefing (non-counselling) sessions for Hospice staff and volunteers as needed

Qualifications and Experience

Skills and Abilities:

- Tact and discretion in dealing with and handling confidential information
- Excellent interpersonal and dispute resolution skills
- Confidence and enthusiasm
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong administrative skills and comfort with Google Workspace
- Ability to set and maintain personal and professional boundaries
- Proven ability to work well under pressure and use good judgment in assessing difficult situations; Willing to seek supervisor and/or team consultation as needed
- Strong customer service orientation

Education and professional experience:

- Master of Education in Counselling, Master of Social Work, or equivalent
- Minimum of 2 years general counselling experience (grief specialization preferred)
- Licensing, registration, certification and membership in good standing with the relevant regulatory body
- Holding, or willingness to hold, individual personal liability insurance
- Extensive knowledge of issues related to grief, trauma, and death
- Experience with providing counselling to children/youth considered an asset
- Experience with pregnancy, miscarriage, and infant loss considered an asset

Additional requirements:

- Supports efforts at recycling and reusing where appropriate
- Participates on committees as required and meets regularly with the Hospice staff team
- Supports in Hospice fundraising activities
- Represents Hospice Halifax in the community

How to Apply

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Please forward a cover letter and resume to careers@hospicehalifax.ca and reference “Counsellor2022” in the subject line of the email.

Please submit applications by July 31, 2022.

Thank you for your interest in working with Hospice Halifax. Only those selected for the interview process will be contacted.