



Job Opportunity with the Child Witness Centre Child and Youth Advocate (1 full-time position)

The Child Witness Centre is looking for a caring and compassionate individual with strong collaborative, trauma informed skills to join the Advocate Program in the new Waterloo Region Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC).

The Child Witness Centre is a key partner in developing this multidisciplinary and child and youth friendly Centre that will provide the best possible services for young people who are victims or witnesses of abuse and their families. The CYAC provides seamless, coordinated investigations and support to these children, youth and their families regardless of whether charges are laid. This is a collaborative initiative involving the Waterloo Regional Police, Family and Children's Services, the Crown Attorney's Office, Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre and Lutherwood and many other community agencies.

Position Summary:

Advocates walk with the children, youth and their families from the initial point of investigation throughout the process, assisting with crisis intervention and support and making referrals to for children, youth and their families to appropriate community services. The position reports directly to the Advocate Program Manager.

To best meet the needs of the children, youth and caregivers, the Advocate position works on a rotating weekly schedule which includes regularly scheduled days that include some evening hours.

The Advocate's role is to provide support, advocacy and referral services for the children and youth who are victims or witnesses and their non-offending caregivers and are referred to the CYAC. The Advocate provides, with consent, services throughout a child abuse investigation, and beyond if required. The Advocate will deliver culturally sensitive, trauma informed and well-coordinated services.

The Advocate provides continuity and coordination of services for child and youth victims of abuse and their caregivers, within this integrated service delivery model. The Advocate is a consistent contact person responsible for supporting children, youth and their caregivers from the time they become involved with the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre of Waterloo Region, through to the end of their service involvement. The Advocate will collaborate with a multidisciplinary team with an emphasis on connecting, linking and supporting children, youth and their caregivers with appropriate services.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Provide child, youth -focussed support while the child or youth and caregiver are at the Centre and afterwards as required.
 - Being present with families during investigations to provide compassionate support while children, youth and their caregivers wait to be interviewed by the police and FACS.

- Collect information from child, youth and caregiver and assist in completing consents and other established program forms
- Assess child, youth and caregivers for needs and make referrals for families to appropriate services.
- Maintain a working knowledge of available supports and resources in the community to provide families with timely and appropriate referrals
- Consult when necessary with Family and Children's Services, Waterloo Regional Police, mental health services (both children's and adult) and other community professionals.
- Develop and maintain a working knowledge of relevant child protection and criminal justice legislation, policy and practice (e.g. Child and Family Services Act, Youth Criminal Justice Act etc.).
- Help families understand how the various systems they are involved with function and help to interpret police/child welfare and criminal justice decisions
- Provide informal psychoeducation to families about trauma, sexual abuse, domestic violence, physical abuse etc.
- Remain in regular and consistent contact with family in accordance with established time lines.
- Maintain current documentation of all client information on database and in client files.
- Provision of service is based on a 35-hour Monday to Friday work week within a rotating schedule which includes regularly scheduled days that include some evening hours.
- Serve as liaison and participate in meetings with multidisciplinary team and other community initiatives
 - Attend and participate in regularly scheduled CYAC meetings, debriefs, case reviews when required.
- Assist in evaluation and ongoing development of the Advocate Program
 - Facilitate collection of and reporting of relevant data/statistics of Advocate services
 - Attend and participate in staff development training
 - Actively participate in agency-wide initiatives when appropriate, including fundraising ventures and public presentations
- Child Witness Centre Agency Support
 - Contribute to the development of annual goals, strategies, work plans, budgets and overall work of the agency.

Qualifications:

- BSW/MSW preferred with experience in working with children/youth, or University degree with a minimum of 3 years working with children/youth and families in social services or related field.
- Inspired by the work of the Child Witness Centre and passionate about working with child victims and witnesses.
- Strong and current knowledge of child development, impact of trauma, dynamics of sexual and physical abuse and Intimate Partner Violence.
- Experience in case management
- Demonstrated ability to be flexible and manage crisis situations
- Experience in providing culturally aware services

- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team environment,
- Commitment to building strong working relationships and contributing to a positive work environment
- Knowledge of the Canadian judicial system, child welfare system and legislation, Anti-Oppressive Practice, Victim Bill of Rights, privacy legislation and services and resources available within the Waterloo Region
- Demonstrated ability to take initiative, set priorities, meet deadlines and cope with competing demands
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including the ability to quickly establish rapport and gain the trust of others
- Willingness to work an alternate schedule and to occasionally respond to investigations that come in before or after standard scheduled hours of work
- Perform effectively in environments with frequent workload changes and competing demands
- Humility and a willingness to ask for help and seek supervision when required
- Computer proficiency using Microsoft Office software and experience with data management systems
- Valid driver's licence with a minimum \$1m liability coverage and access to vehicle to travel
- Available to work on weekends and evenings as required

The Child Witness Centre requires all new hires to submit a current Vulnerable Persons Check and a Family and Children Services Check.

Please note that the deadline for submitting a resume and covering letter to the above email address is midnight February 22, 2018.

Application Process:

We thank all applicants for applying, however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. All inquiries will be kept in strict confidence.

Please email your cover letter and resume in confidence to:

Attention: Meagan Copland
 CYAC Advocate Program Manager
careers@childwitness.com

More information about the Child Witness Centre and the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre initiative can be found at www.childwitness.com.