



Health Career Directory

Mental Health and Addictions Worker

Overview

Mental Health and Addictions Workers works under the direction of a Supervisor/Coordinator to provide support services to clients. They help mental health clients with the activities of daily living within various settings to encourage full independence. They observe and documents client's health conditions, progress, and environment. They also report significant and unsafe observations, and provide support and guidance for clients.

The main duties of a of a mental health worker are to:

- create a safe and welcoming environment for people to live
- provide brief counselling to individuals and families about mental health and mental health issues
- make home visits as needed
- make referrals for services required by the clients
- provide community education
- collaborate with community agencies.

Who is suited to become a mental health and addictions worker?

Mental Health and Addiction Workers need to always believe that people with serious mental health illness and additions can recover and improve their health.

They are most effective when they have the following skills and characteristics:

- home management skills
- ability to communicate effectively with others
- ability to organize and prioritize the work
- ability to observe and recognize changes in clients
- ability to create and maintain a relationship with clients
- ability to operate related equipment
- physically fit. The ability to lift up to 20 kilograms is required in some clinical settings
- a clean record, no prior criminal background.

Who employs Mental Health Workers?

A Mental Health Worker works in the following settings:

- acute/hospital setting
- primary care clinics

- outreach clinics
- residential care homes
- community health centers as part of a treatment team.

They are employed by BC's health authorities/employers or private agencies. Their hours of work are rotating shift hours. This includes weekends, evenings, and night shift work. They may be exposed to diseases and must wear protective clothing, such as rubber gloves and masks, in some work environments.

Salary

Salary per hour is \$21.22

Required qualifications and training become a Mental Health Worker

Completion of Grade 12 and completion of a Social Services Diploma or Certificate from a recognized program such as:

- Health Care Support Worker Certificate
- Certificate in Community Mental Health
- Human Service Worker Certificate
- Addictions Worker Certificate
- Home Support/Resident Care Aide Program.

Resources

Education Program

Canadian Health Care Academy

http://www.chcabc.com/chca_programs.html

Douglas College

<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/calendar/programs/phcsw.html>

Gateway College

<http://www.gwcollege.ca/>

Omni College

<http://omnicollege.com/>

Thompson Community College

<http://www.thompsoncc.ca/>

Vancouver Community College

http://www.vcc.ca/programs-courses/college-programs-area.cfm?DIV_ID=6

Universal Learning Institute

<http://www.trainingforjobs.com/>

Financial assistance and bursaries

For information about Canada student loans and grants, please visit:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml

Association

BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry

<http://www.cachwr.bc.ca/>