



## Middle School Social Worker JOB DESCRIPTION

**Status/Schedule:** Exempt (salaried) employee. This position is full time and has regularly scheduled hours from noon to 8pm, Monday through Friday. There is flexibility around this schedule during the summer and non-program periods.

**Reports to:** Middle School Program Manager

**Background/Summary:** For 17 years, [Red Hook Initiative](#) (RHI) has nurtured young people in Red Hook, Brooklyn, to be inspired, resilient and healthy, and to envision themselves as co-creators of their lives, community and society. Dozens of participants in RHI programs have returned to RHI as staff, and have jump-started careers in youth development from there. A key component of our approach to youth development and community building lies in the integration of socio-emotional support. Social work values and holistic practices are essential.

The Middle School Social Worker is a part of an interdisciplinary team serving program participants at RHI and will engage young people, enrolled in RHI programming, in social, emotional and mental health services. The Middle School Social Worker supports RHI's commitment to increase mental health access in Red Hook, and has a pivotal role in shaping counseling service delivery and embedding best practices in an innovative and impactful setting.

Responsibilities include mental health screening, individual and family counseling, advocacy, group work, case conferences and case management. Capacity building offerings include: weekly clinical supervision, monthly group supervision, peer support, and monthly case conferencing.

Ample training opportunities and continuing education are provided as part of Red Hook Initiative's commitment to ongoing staff development, including certification in Motivational Interviewing, Mental Health First Aid, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Psychoeducation (Seeking Safety), and Unified Behavioral Health screening. We utilize a trauma informed practice and intersectional lens to shape the delivery of social emotional support in all of our programs.

**Responsibilities:** The responsibilities of Middle School Social Worker include but are not limited to:

### **Counseling, Case Management and Advocacy**

- Support participants' mental health needs using approaches such as Motivational Interviewing, Mental Health First Aid, mental health screenings, referrals, and psychoeducation.
- Engage youth in individual, family, and/or couples counseling as needed.
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to provide holistic support services, including leading clinical case conferencing for Middle Schoolteam to coordinate support services.

- Set up outside counseling and bridge the transition for clients who have needs for ongoing therapy, clinical evaluation or psychiatric care.
- Comply with guidelines for mandated reporting
- Conduct home visits and accompany participants to external referrals as necessary

### **Program Implementation**

- Develop and facilitate social emotional learning groups for middle school age youth. This may include workshops on gender identity, bullying and conflict resolution, navigating adolescence, social justice and systemic race-based inequality.
- Co-facilitate the Peer Counselors Peer Education Program for the RHI High School Program.
- Engage and support parents and families as needed in social and emotional services
- Work with supervisor to create & revise curricula to reflect the goals and objectives of groups and programs.
- Work with supervisor to complete timely program and service evaluations.

### **Collaboration**

- Represent RHI at local events, community gatherings, workshops, and trainings, as needed.
- Assist in compiling grant reports or progress reports as relates to the social work or program activities at RHI.
- Assist in program development and in future planning for RHI with a focus on social work and youth needs.

### **Other:**

- Maintain accurate records including clinical case notes, documentation of services, group summaries, sign-in sheets, and Salesforce data entry.
- Create reports on outcomes and participation.
- Attend all staff meetings and planning meetings.

### **Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:**

- Commitment to racial equity in values and practice experience.
- Familiarity with strengths-based counseling, culturally responsive practice, and anti-oppressive social work perspectives.
- Awareness of the impact of structural inequalities and trauma upon wellbeing and development.
- Ability to engage young people therapeutically in a non-clinical/community-based setting.
- Experience providing wellness planning and safety planning.
- Must have strong communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Ability to develop programming and facilitate groups.
- Ability to keep accurate records and statistics.
- Ability to work independently.
- Willingness to collaborate on projects and work with a team.
- Must be enthusiastic about community work and youth development.

### **Experience and Qualifications:**

- LMSW or LMHC preferred. MSW/MHC working toward licensure is acceptable.
- SIFI certification preferred.
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred.
- At least one year of experience in social work including individual work with youth.

- At least one year of experience running therapeutic groups.
- At least one year of experience providing counseling in a community-based setting, utilizing a trauma informed practice lens.
- Training in trauma therapy, or one year in a mental health clinic required.
- Red Hook resident or strong affiliation with Red Hook community.

To apply, please send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to [apply@rhicenter.org](mailto:apply@rhicenter.org) with “Middle School Social Worker” in the subject line.