

Mental Health Specialist Bilingual (Spanish), Community-based

Organizational Profile:

S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc. is a youth, family, and community development organization that specializes in youth, gang and gun violence prevention and intervention. Our mission is to increase safety and sense of community belonging to youth and families across Long Island and the surrounding region. To accomplish this, we provide alternatives to high risk behaviors for our youth and empower families, residents and stake holders to implement and endorse socially responsible initiatives in their communities.

Program Description: STRONG University

Our intervention program focuses on providing juveniles at high risk for or already involved in the criminal justice system with the education, skills, and support they need to complete legal requirements and engage in sustainable life change to reduce their risk for re-incarceration. Our program includes: Mental health services for the youth and their family, specialized services to address chronic trauma, case management services, psychoeducational groups and referral for substance abuse treatment as needed. We supplement the program with “life changing” experiences, or activities that can trigger a commitment to change.

Position Description: A licensed mental health provider committed to making a difference in the lives of young people and empowering them to make positive life choices. The ideal candidate will have a passion for working with a population that consists primarily of at-risk-juveniles and youth on probation or parole that are heavily gang -involved youth ages 11-21, as well as their families. The Specialist will be primarily responsible for providing a range of intensive counseling and supportive services to these youth and their families. *The social worker will also have some supervisory responsibilities.*

All staff is expected to represent S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc. in a professional manner, act in a manner consistent with the mission and values of S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc. and help realize the organization’s mission.

Specialist’s responsibilities will include:

- Manage a case load of youth and their families in our intervention program as assigned.
- Conduct assessments with participants and parents throughout the course of engagement.
- Complete the service plan conducting reviews as needed throughout the duration of treatment.
- Effectively implement Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-based (CBT) individual and family counseling sessions to youth in our University and SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress) programs.
- Facilitate weekly group sessions with intervention youth on a variety of mental health topics.
- Provide clinical support and guidance to staff on cases staffed at the weekly case conference.
- Establish and maintain consultative relationships with schools and other agencies directly involved with the assigned youths & families.
- Make successful referrals to outside agencies or in house to Counselors/Outreach Workers and/or Case Manager.
- Help to establish collaborative relationships with current and potential referral sources.
- Assist in developing and carrying out regular professional development sessions for staff and partners regarding mental health and complex trauma.
- Work with intervention team and Director of Programs in organizing parent and community events.

- Perform other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Candidates must be knowledgeable of youth gang issues (including international issues), the juvenile justice system, and the public school system, as well as individual and family dynamics surrounding these populations. The candidate should possess the ability to effectively coordinate a comprehensive array of services to address the multiple needs of the individual and family dynamic of these populations; demonstrate an understanding of the challenges facing youth and have an empathetic attitude considering the range of possible underlying issues, such as low socioeconomic status, presence of gangs in the neighborhood, availability of drugs and firearms in the neighborhood, feeling unsafe in the neighborhood, high crime, conflict with social control institutions, and family disorganization.

The Specialist should also be knowledgeable of clinical services, including chronic trauma theory and treatment, and advocacy in youth empowerment.

- **BILINGUAL IN SPANISH required**
- **MUST** be a Licensed MSW/Mental Health professional with at least 3 years post-graduate experience in providing CBT/trauma focused counseling services and conducting groups with individuals & families; preferably at-risk and/or juvenile delinquent populations.
- Experience in supervising paraprofessional staff
- Ability and willingness to provide training and professional development to staff and interns as needed.
- Knowledge of relevant community resources and must be current on news impacting communities we serve.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team setting.
 - *Must be able to relate to youth and maintain professional boundaries.*
- Demonstrate comfort in interacting with families, community residents, business leaders, politicians, and community activists.
- Ability to stay organized, assess priorities, take initiative, handle multiple assignments, meet deadlines to develop solutions to problems with limited direct supervision is a must.
- Attention to detail, ability to work under pressure.
- Commitment to excellence and a willingness to learn.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of records and information.
- Must pass criminal background check.
- Demonstrated computer proficiency.
- A valid NYS Driver's License and access to a motor vehicle is required.

Program Location: Nassau County, New York

Days & Hours: Full time. Must have a flexible schedule. Mainly afternoon into evening hours. Weekends as needed. Will be discussed during interview.

Salary: \$53,000- \$55,000. Commensurate with experience. Additionally, a 401(K) program and health benefits are available in addition to paid time off, vacation and paid holidays.

All qualified applicants, please send cover letter, resume, and references to info@strongyouth.com.

Include in subject line STRONG Youth – LMSW

Visit our website at www.strongyouth.com

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