Puentes: Advocacy, Counseling & Education Opportunity Posting

Community Mental Health Therapist

Organization history and mission: Puentes was founded in 2014 by Latino immigrant mental health professionals in the wake of the hunger strike at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, to come alongside members of our community who are suffering under a broken immigration system. Current immigration policies have a direct and harmful impact in the mental health of immigrant communities. Therefore we work to mobilize mental health resources to promote the recovery of social agency, social healing, and organize our communities towards collective immigration justice in the United States.

We are a not-for-profit community oriented, non-hierarchical organization working at the intersection of access to justice and health equity.

Terms: Full time.

Summary of Position: The Community Mental Health therapist works in conjunction with Puentes’ staff to collaborate in the design and facilitation of community-based initiatives serving neighbors directly impacted by immigration policies. They also provide mental health services for applicants in immigration proceedings.

Primary Responsibilities: The community mental health therapist is responsible for engaging the community in two ways: First, by conducting psychosocial assessments for immigration proceedings (training provided). Additionally, the therapist will engage with community members and Puentes staff to assist with the design and implementation of community initiatives centered in building therapeutic spaces for the community, such as support groups, community organizing around family safety, family reunification, provide accompaniment and therapeutic services in detention and foster the development of community members as mental health promoters.

Essential Functions/Responsibilities: The key responsibilities of the therapist include the following:

1. Commit to be part of the mental health mobilizers’ circle, documenting and raising awareness of the impact of immigration laws in the mental health of community members in the United States.
2. Engage in learning opportunities about immigration and mental health with Puentes staff.
3. Assist and complete Puentes’ one-day training on how to conduct psychosocial assessments for immigration proceedings and be available for monthly case consults.

[p] 206.920.6933 | www.puenteourseattle.org | 220 2nd Ave S #103, Seattle, WA 98104
4. In coordination with Puentes’ staff, conduct psychosocial assessments at Puentes’ offices and at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma.
5. Maintain accurate records and practice sound confidentiality in communications and maintenance of case files.
6. Work in coordination with referring attorney to understand the case and gather the appropriate kind of information.
7. Collaborate in the design and implementation of mental health community initiatives as opportunities become available.
8. Facilitate community activities and trainings.
9. Collaborate in the development of educational content for community members.
10. Work with Puentes staff to raise and secure funds for new community initiatives.
11. Fundraising: Assist Puentes staff to identify potential donors and to fundraise.

Ideal candidate will have the following experience and qualifications

1. Master’s degree in counseling psychology, social work, or related field.
2. Must hold an active license in the State of WA as a mental health professional (for example, LMHC, LMHCA, LICSW, LICSWA).
3. Demonstrated ability to nurture leadership among those who are affected by public policy, systematic oppression and/or immigration policy.
4. Familiarity with popular education methodologies and community organizing principles, or familiarity with an Asset Based Community Development framework.
5. Demonstrated ability to establish professional and effective rapport with colleagues, clients, and diverse constituents.
6. Demonstrated ability to plan creatively and strategically and to envision and implement programs.
7. Demonstrated ability to be flexible and open to change.
8. Demonstrated commitment to social justice and ability to foster the mission of Puentes.
10. Excellent writing & communication skills in English.
11. Strong computer skills.
12. Ability to meet deadlines.

Perks:

1. Be part of an energizing team working on innovative approaches to Mental Health for diverse populations.
2. Participate in strategic decisions in collaboration with community members, colleagues, graduate students, and researchers.
3. Free clinical supervision for associates working towards full licensure.
4. Have a meaningful role in advocacy for the new immigrant community and their families.

To apply: Send letter of interest and resume to cote@puentesseattle.org

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Please note: Puentes especially encourages people from marginalized communities to apply for the Mental Health Mobilizer position. This includes but is not limited to women, people of color, LGBTQ* identified individuals, those with differing abilities, and others who are not traditionally represented in mental health.