



Clinical Counsellor-Arabic (PT)

Job Description

Introduction to VAST

In 1986, a small group of human rights activists and mental health workers gathered in Vancouver to support the flood of refugees arriving from the armed conflicts in South and Central America. They founded the Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST), and this dedicated group of volunteers built what would become BC's largest center for refugee mental health. Today, VAST works with refugees from over 100 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Our programs and services are offered in over a dozen languages, including Arabic, Farsi, French, Mandarin, and Spanish. We support the mental health of refugees who arrive in British Columbia with psychological trauma as a result of torture, political violence, and other forms of persecution on the basis of race, religion, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

We facilitate the healing process for 1,000 survivors of torture each year, and their families, by providing accessible and culturally appropriate individual and group counselling and therapeutic services. We also provide psycho-legal documentation and support refugee claimants through the asylum process, and are called in to work with Temporary Foreign Workers in Canada when their particular situation requires our support. Canada is a signatory to the UN's Convention Against Torture (1985), and the Refugee Convention (1951), both of which oblige us to protect the rights of survivors of forced displacement, including the Right to Rehabilitation, and to provide safe haven to those at risk of persecution. VAST is an active member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture (IRCT), the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), and the Canadian Network for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (CNSTT).

Founded on the conviction that 'healing is an act of resistance', for 35 years VAST has employed a province-leading model of trauma-informed mental health service provision. Our work has created and sustained a resilient, inclusive community amongst newcomers, and over More than half of our team identify as survivors themselves, and their voices are represented at all levels of our organization. We do not believe in working alone, and our mission supports a range of advocacy and capacity building activities to strengthen BC's mental health sector for newcomers, and encourage understanding of our work amongst government institutions. In so doing, we relieve demand on the BC healthcare sector, especially in dense urban and more isolated rural areas of BC. VAST is more than a healthcare provider and is known throughout BC as a convener of voices with lived experience of torture and trauma, and an influential advisor to multiple levels of policy makers and practitioners.

Classification/Job Title: Clinical Counsellor-Arabic (PT)

Rate of pay: \$28.50-\$30.45 (Commensurate with experience)

Job Summary

The Clinical Counsellor provides trauma-focused psychological counselling for individuals and families who arrive in BC as refugees, survivors of war, with a background of persecution and torture, or with other vulnerable statuses. They work within a team composed of the Executive Director, the Clinical Supervisor, the Clinical Team, and the Community Engagement Team to provide assessment, individual counselling, group facilitation and referrals to and from other community-based supports for refugees.

This position reports to the Clinical Supervisor.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct assessments, using clinical interviews and standardized measurements, to assess current symptomatology and psychosocial functioning; and to facilitate treatment planning and outcome monitoring
- Provide individual counselling in Arabic, focused on reducing trauma-related symptoms and increasing psychosocial functioning
- Provide psycho-legal assessments and letters to lawyers for the refugee claim process
- Provide group facilitations, including groups that are focused on the psychosocial dimensions of the refugee claim settlement process, such as the barriers to providing testimony and creating community
- Participate in case consultations and group and individual clinical supervision sessions
- Maintain written and electronic client records in electronic database
- Facilitate workshops on refugee mental health for legal, health, social, and settlement service providers
- Represent VAST at community consultations for the health and settlement sectors
- Provide statistical and narrative information on the clinical program for clinical evaluation, funding applications and reports, and research
- Perform other duties as requested

Qualifications:

- Masters degree in Clinical Counselling or similar discipline, Registered in BC
- Significant Cross-cultural experience
- Previous work with trauma
- Ability to conduct virtual clinical sessions
- Fluent in Arabic and English
- Ability to work with interpreters
- Knowledge of the refugee and refugee claimant process & systems