

Contractual Employment Opportunity

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS DIVISION

Provincial Rights Advisor – Eastern Region (St. John's area)

Contractual Opportunity (Non Bargaining/Non Management)

DUTIES:

Rights Advisors are required to meet with individuals who have been involuntarily hospitalized or are the subject of a community treatment order under the *Mental Health Care and Treatment Act*, and their patient representatives, to provide information and help them understand and exercise their rights under the Act. These meetings must take place in person or by other means as soon as possible, and not later than 24 hours of the person being involuntarily hospitalized or placed on a community treatment order; and with the patient representative as soon as practicable. Rights Advisors are required to contact individuals and their patient representatives again within 10 days following the first meeting unless the Rights Advisor is contacted first; and thereafter at the request of the person, as often as necessary to appropriately discharge his or her duties and responsibilities as required by the Act and Regulations.

In working with individuals and patient representatives, Rights Advisors must communicate legislative rights in a neutral, non-judgmental manner; ensure privacy and confidentiality is maintained at all times; explain the significance of the involuntary admission to hospital or issuance of the community treatment order; and at the request of individuals or their patient representatives, assist with obtaining legal counsel or making application to the Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board.

Working closely with the Department of Health and Community Services, Rights Advisors are responsible for participating in regularly-scheduled departmental meetings, maintaining detailed and appropriate records and documentation, and submitting monthly reports. Rights Advisors work a minimum of four hours per week, and require a high degree of scheduling flexibility as meetings with individuals and patient representatives may take place during the day, evening or on weekends.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The role of rights advisor is an important position that requires a high level of independence, sensitivity and confidentiality. A working knowledge and understanding of the *Mental Health Care and Treatment Act* is required. Familiarity with the *Personal Health Information Act* would be an asset. Candidates must demonstrate well-developed oral and written communication skills, reliability, and the ability to use sound judgment. The above qualifications would normally be acquired through post-secondary education and work experience in the social sciences or humanities, health, law, social work, or related field; supplemented by experience in working with individuals and families with lived experience of mental illness.

The successful candidate must have a reliable means of transportation, and will be required to provide a Certificate of Conduct as a condition of offer. The successful candidate must not have an employment relationship with a regional health authority in Newfoundland and Labrador at the time employment commences.

SALARY: \$25.00 per hour
CLOSING DATE: Friday, September 22, 2017

Applications should be submitted to Colleen Simms, Director of Mental Health and Addictions, via email to ColleenSimms@gov.nl.ca, by fax to (709) 729-4429, or by mail to:

**Director, Mental Health and Addictions
Department of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
1st Floor, West Block, Confederation Building
PO Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6**

Please quote "Rights Advisors Application" in subject line.

For additional information on this opportunity, please contact Colleen Simms at (709) 729-3659.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador values diversity in the work place and is an equal opportunity employer. Applications should be received before the close of business on the closing date. Late applications with explanation may be considered. Your résumé must clearly demonstrate how you meet the required qualifications as stated in the job ad and must contain your current mailing address, contact number and e-mail if applicable.