

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT



Job Description

Art Therapist

QMS No.: FIN-HR-TEM 065 **Dept.:** Finance/Admin. **Rev No/Date:** / **Issue Date:** Jan18/11 **Approved** David Paul Achneepineskum

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Art therapist reports to the Executive Director of Education, Principal and Vice Principal of the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) and the Mental Health Coordinator. The Art Therapist provides a health service that combines psychotherapy and the creative process of making art, known to be therapeutic, to help individuals explore personal issues and express thoughts and feelings. The primary responsibility of the Art Therapist is to provide mental health support to Matawa First Nations students attending the MECC through creative arts. The Art Therapist works to combat the tremendous increase in suicides and self-harming behavior among youth by addressing students' mental health needs and working in collaboration with the MECC Principal, staff, and community.

SCOPE

As a member of the Matawa Education and Care Centre team, the Art Therapist supports students mental health as they move toward the successful completion of their secondary education and continue on their pathways to work, training or post-secondary education programs. The Art Therapist maintains a supportive relationship with students by providing them with a secure and stable therapeutic space.

Positive interpersonal communication and relationships between the Art Therapist and students are key elements in creating and sustaining an effective learning environment. Given this relationship, the Art Therapist may be asked to act as an advocate or intermediary for students within the Education Department.

The Art Therapist selects appropriate mediums of visual expression and implements treatment strategies that are consistent with the therapeutic objectives established in the treatment plans. Ensures that the necessary materials are on hand and orders more when necessary.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Program Development and Delivery

Main Activities

- Develop and deliver identified psychotherapy and creative programs
- Contributes to evaluating students' psychological, social and physical level of functioning in order to determine their needs and establish a care plan and art therapy objectives
- Regularly evaluates the effectiveness of treatment plans and adapts them according to the evolving needs and abilities of each student
- Provides a follow-up report on each student and on the evolution of their condition to the rest of the interdisciplinary team. Makes recommendations if necessary
- Maintains supportive relationships and open channels of communication with students' caregivers
- Planning and facilitating activities, and workshops

2. Administration

Main Activities

- Meet with students and administration and arrange activities and sessions;
- planning and facilitating activities, and maintaining the workshop and equipment;
- organize and carry out one-on-one and group workshops;
- Encourage members of the group to relate to each other through their art;
- liaise with other professionals, including those working in medicine, healthcare and education, social services, and the prison and probation services;
- attend seminars, workshops and conferences to discuss treatment methods and share ideas and experience;
- refer students to other therapists and health professionals;

3. Other Duties

- Other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Director

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge

The incumbent must have proficient knowledge in the following areas:

- Postgraduate level training in art therapy, or the equivalent experience
- At least 2 years' art therapy experience
- Proficient knowledge of clientele with neurocognitive disorders
- Knowledge of First Nation education
- Knowledge of First Nation cultures and life styles
- Knowledge and experience with computer systems (Apple preferred)

Skills

The incumbent must demonstrate the following skills:

- A minimum of 2 years successful art therapy experience
- Experience with a First Nation school and/or working with First Nation students
- Knowledge and experience in developing courses and workshops as they pertain to art therapy
- Excellent written, verbal, interpersonal, presentation, and analytical skills
- A valid Ontario Driver's License

Personal Attributes

The incumbent must maintain strict confidentiality in performing the duties of Teacher. The incumbent must also demonstrate the following personal attributes:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Flexibility
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with parents, students, co-workers, and administrator
- Willingness and ability to travel as required, to both road-accessible and fly-in communities
- Must be "fully vaccinated" against COVID-19. (In Ontario, a "fully vaccinated individual" is defined as one who has received the required number of doses as outlined by Health Canada and they have received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.) Must provide Health Canada's proof of vaccination (vaccine receipt or enhanced vaccine certificate).

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands

The Matawa Education and Care Centre Art Therapist may have to travel throughout the community in all weather. They may have to lift, carry and manage equipment and supplies. They may have to work odd or long hours at a time to complete special requests or projects. The Art Therapist may have to spend long hours sitting and using office equipment, computers and attending meetings.

Environmental Conditions

The building may be a busy facility. The Art Therapist may have to manage a number of people and projects at one time, and they may be interrupted frequently to meet the needs and requests of students and Matawa staff members. They may find the environment to be busy, noisy and will need excellent organizational and time and stress management skills to complete the required tasks.

Sensory Demands

Sensory demands can include reading and use of the computer, which may cause eye strain and occasional headaches. The MECC may be noisy and busy making it difficult for them to concentrate.

Mental Demands

The Art Therapist will have to manage a number of requests and projects at one time. They must be aware of Education Department business in the community and any and all relevant legislation, policies and procedures. They may have to complete a number of tasks and responsibilities at one time, and must be prepared to deal with emergencies and stressful situations at any time.

CERTIFICATION

| | |
|---|--|
| <hr/> Employee Signature | <hr/> Supervisor's Title |
| <hr/> Printed Name Date | <hr/> Supervisor's Signature Date |
| I certify that I have read and understand the responsibilities assigned to this position. | I certify that this job description is an accurate description of the responsibilities assigned to the position. |

| |
|---|
| <hr/> Executive Director's Signature Date |
| I approve the delegation of responsibilities outlined herein within the context of the attached organizational structure. |

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by the incumbent(s) of this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities and activities required of the position.