



Position: Full-Time Mental Health Consultant

Position Description:

JPA's Connect 2 Kids (C2K) program exists at the critical intersection of mental health and education. C2K is a therapeutic consultation program focused on building and enhancing caring and supportive relationships between teachers and students in order to help students feel and function better. It is informed by decades of mental health experience in the education system and expertise in child development, attachment and trauma-informed theory, and clinical, reflective consultative approaches to teacher coaching.

C2K partners licensed mental health clinicians with educators and schools in under-resourced communities impacted by trauma and social and economic inequities. C2K consultants provide reflective consultation, training, and support to enhance educators' understanding of the social emotional needs of their students and develop trauma-informed and relational practices that can be incorporated into daily school and classroom activities. C2K programming is embedded in the school and tailored to the individualized needs of the educator, the classroom, and the school community.

JPA is seeking to expand our team with a new full-time mental health consultant who has expertise in child development and trauma-informed practice in schools. The C2K consultant takes a lead role in this innovative program, providing guidance and support to teachers and school staff while also contributing to program development and evaluation. This position will work in schools throughout the city of Chicago. A travel stipend may be possible. **The start date for this position is August/September 2023.**

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with teachers and other school staff to provide weekly reflective consultation that highlights the ongoing social and emotional needs of students; how teachers experience, understand and respond to these needs and the impact of the teacher-student relationship on student wellbeing and classroom behavior.
- Provide support, feedback, guidance, and resources to teachers, with the goal of supporting positive teacher-student interactions and relationships, enhancing trauma-responsive classroom and school environments.
- Provide observations of individual students and classrooms with follow-up assessments and consultation to teachers.
- Facilitate developmentally appropriate social-emotional lessons and activities for students in the classroom setting across a variety of ages and grades (pre-K through 8th).
- Provide professional development workshops and trainings about SEL and mental health to school staff as needed.
- Build and sustain collaborative partnerships with administrators and school staff.
- Contribute to weekly meetings with Associate Director of Clinical Practices and other C2K Consultants and participate in case consultation and planning for program implementation.
- Engage in weekly individual reflective supervision with Associate Director of Clinical Practices.



- Complete necessary documentation on an ongoing basis and contribute to grant reports and program evaluation activities.
- Contribute to projects related to the ongoing development and quality improvement of the C2K program model.
- Contribute to other agency and community activities as needed, including JPA's Graduate-Level Internship Program, school-based crisis support, fundraising events, etc.

Core Values and Attributes:

- **Relationship-Oriented:** Holds a firm belief and understanding that caring and supportive relationships are powerful vehicles for change. Understands the power of the student-teacher relationship and that teachers need and deserve just as much support as their students.
- **Reflective:** Values and demonstrates a deep capacity for self-reflection and a solid understanding of the importance of the use of self and reflective practice.
- **Collaborative:** Has the capacity for deep empathy, curiosity, and collaboration when working with individuals and teams.
- **Confident:** Strong sense of self and belief in one's own abilities to motivate, support, provide solutions, and accomplish tasks while also being able to integrate feedback from others.
- **Empathetic:** Ability to understand the feelings and perspectives of individuals of highly varied backgrounds and experiences.
- **Social Justice:** Dynamic and evolving understanding of how to best serve, support, and ally with communities that have been historically marginalized and underrepresented. Demonstrated and continuous commitment to furthering social justice and equity.
- **Communication:** Superior interpersonal skills and the ability to build and sustain relationships with stakeholders, including staff, board members, external partners, and donors. Reliability, consistency, and responsiveness in communication.
- **Adaptability and Flexibility:** Ability to operate effectively and flexibly in changing contexts and operating environments.
- **Growth Mindset:** Views growth as important for personal and professional development; seeks out opportunities to expand skills, even if change is required. Remains current on developments in community-based behavioral health services, education, public health, and social justice/advocacy.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in social work, professional counseling, or related field required
- LCSW /LCPC preferred
- Must have minimum of 3 years of professional clinical experience working with children and families
- Experience providing mental health consultation
- Skilled at making clinical observations and providing reflective feedback
- Experience in relationship-based, reflective, and trauma-informed practice
- Experience working in urban and under-resourced communities, and an understanding of the systemic forces that impact them
- Experience with and commitment to providing culturally responsive services
- Understanding of and commitment to social service values and ethics



- Strong writing, interpersonal, and organizational skills
- Ability to work with interdisciplinary teams, school-based experience preferred
- Must be able to travel to and from the school, home and the JPA office within normal business hours using public transportation. Access to a car and possession of a valid driver's license preferred

Benefits:

- Weekly individual clinical supervision
- Weekly team clinical consultation and collaboration
- Professional development
- Excellent benefits including generous paid time off, health, dental, and 403(b)
- Salary commensurate upon experience

Applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Erin Vanden Brook at evbrook@jpachicago.org.

JPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. **JPA** is a 122-year-old social impact agency whose mission is to improve the social and emotional well-being and functioning of children furthest from opportunity so they can reach their fullest potential at home, in school, and in our communities. JPA provides in-school therapeutic counseling services to children and families in under-resourced communities, conducts research, and provides expert consultation and guidance to others serving children and families.

July 2023