

The Hektoen Institute, LLC

Title: Trauma Intervention Specialist
FLSA: Exempt
Location: Healing Hurt People Chicago: Department of Trauma at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County and University of Chicago Medicine
Reports to: Clinical Director

Healing Hurt People Chicago (HHPC) is a hospital-based violence intervention program targeting adolescent and young adult patients with injuries due to community violence. HHPC is a community-focused, trauma-informed program with interventions beginning as patients are treated at Level 1 Trauma Center partners Stroger and University of Chicago Medicine (UCM) Trauma Centers and follows into the community as they are discharged.

Individuals who are victims of gun violence are at the highest risk of re-injury and retaliation. HHP-C is transforming the way trauma centers operate – aggressive treatment for physical injuries **and** the associated socioemotional injuries and trauma – helping our patients find a path forward.

The HHP-C model utilizes intensive case management, psychoeducation, and trauma-focused individual and group services to:

- promote healing from trauma
- decrease high-risk behaviors in order to reduce re-injury, retaliation, arrests
- increase capacity to thrive

Since 2015, HHPC has served over 900 patients. HHP-C has drawn national attention for its work in Chicago communities. For many of our patients, the HHP-C model has prevented negative outcomes that often follow violent injury in the short-term. This includes retaliation (99%), re-injury (86%), and criminal justice involvement (82%). In the long-term, the model works to provide healing and build a pathway forward for patients. Many patients see an increase in self-efficacy (90%), and a decrease in PTSD symptoms (76%) and depression (68%). All these indicators signal the importance of a trauma center treating the whole person, rather than just the physical injury.

This Role:

Trauma Intervention Specialists (TIS) are at the heart of the Healing Hurt People intervention. The central disruptions that occur with trauma exposure (Safety, Emotions, Loss, and Future – SELF) are best addressed within intentional, safe, and healing relationships. The HHPC model is therapeutic, creating a space for healing from trauma in individual and group settings. The team focuses on physical, social and psychological safety; emotional literacy and self-regulation; identification and support for loss and for letting go of relationships or settings that pose increased risk; and, most important, developing a vision for a robust and healthy future creating hope for continued growth and healing.

Primary contributions to the work of HHPC include:

- Build and maintain primary relationship with violently injured persons providing crisis support, psychoeducation about trauma symptoms, and outreach for Intensive Case Management.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for post-discharge care, supporting goal achievement, addressing barriers and resistance to success, identifying and supporting protective factors and hope.
- Support post-traumatic growth and healing through intensive case management, behavioral health counseling, resource acquisition, and navigation.
- Create community through SELF support groups for clients.

Major Responsibilities/functions:

- Engage clients in the immediate aftermath of a violent injury, often in the hospital setting, offering crisis intervention, trauma-focused psychoeducation, and outreach.
- Provide intensive case management (ICM) services within the SELF framework. The HHPC model is best characterized as low volume (12-15 clients); long-term (minimum of six months with weekly sessions); and high intensity/acuity (due to violent injury and exposure to community violence).
- Complete full psychosocial assessments including family, housing, education, medical, and criminal justice involvement. TIS also assess clients for mental status, violence exposure, adverse childhood experiences, trauma histories, depression, and PTSD symptoms.

- Develop plan of care, in consultation with clients and families, to address safety and symptoms of trauma by increasing connection to school, family, social supports, and needed social services. TIS serve as mentors and partners in assisting clients as they develop skills to navigate systems of care – medical, academic, employment, education, housing, social service, and mental health – to promote healing and recovery.
- Document clinical assessments, care plans, and interventions utilizing HHPC's electronic case management tool and electronic medical records as appropriate.
- Serve as a resource to trauma professionals in hospital and community settings, providing consultation and training regarding the experience of persons affected by violence and trauma-informed best practices.

This job requires timeliness, autonomy in work, innovation, creativity and fortitude.

Qualifications:

- Master of Social Work or master's degree in a related field of study
- Demonstrated interest in serving communities affected by historical trauma and structural violence, work in hospitals and public health settings, and trauma-informed interventions for youth, young adults, and families
- Experience screening and assessing adults, children, and families in a therapeutic framework
- Comfortable with outreach activities in high traffic, high stress environments
- Must have a valid driver's license and a vehicle available for community work

Preferred:

- Clinical experience in Level I Trauma or Emergency Medicine setting
- Prior experience providing case management services
- Knowledge of formal and informal organizations in clients' communities
- Bilingual Spanish/English

How to apply:

Healing Hurt People – Chicago is a partnership between the Cook County Trauma Unit Stroger Hospital of Cook County, The University of Chicago Medicine, and The Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Currently, program funding rests at Hektoen Institute of Medicine, the fiscal agent for HHPC. TIS are employees of the Hektoen Institute and are credentialed to work at both Chicago hospitals.

Salary range: \$50,000 - \$55,000 plus benefit package

Send cover letter and resume to:

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For more information visit the HHPC website at healinghurtpeoplechicago.org