Southwest Crisis Center
SUPPORT. ADVOCACY. HOPE.

Position Title: Youth Advocate **Reports to:** Youth Program Manager
Location: Worthington (main office) with travel to satellite offices (Luverne, Windom, Jackson, Pipestone, Slayton)

Description: This position will work as part of a team to advocate on behalf of youth (up to age 24) experiencing domestic and sexual violence (DV/SA), child abuse, and sexual exploitation/trafficking.

Hours: Full-time August 1 – May 31 ongoing with the possibility of summer hours.

Essential Responsibilities

- Provide advocacy, emotional support, crisis intervention, case information and referral services to individuals who have experienced sexual and/or domestic violence, exploitation, trafficking and child abuse. Meeting in-person, via phone or via text.
- Provide supportive listening to youth (up to 24). Assist individuals with identifying their goals and tools needed to reach those goals.
- Assess individual needs and cultural considerations while providing trauma-informed advocacy.
- Provide assistance and advocacy to individuals during: hospital exams, police investigations, court proceedings, and meetings with system personnel and others in accordance with the policies and best practices of the SWCC.
- Assist youth and their families with orders for protections, harassment restraining orders, or other civil remedies available.
- Maintain and ensure confidentiality; follow agency/state policies on requirements related to mandated reporting.
- Be part of the on-call rotation for the 24-hour Safe Line. This includes responding over the phone and in person.
- Document contact and services provided by maintaining accurate, confidential client information in an electronic database in accordance with all agency, state, and federal requirements.
- Maintain a high level of knowledge about services available to youth in the community and provide access to those services.
- Be a resource for community and system professionals .
- Facilitate/coordinate discussion and education groups for victims/survivors
- Provide access to transportation for clients.
- Provide access to safe housing for victims and children (and pets, if applicable) in alignment with the SWCC's Safe House Protocols.
- Provide clear and timely narrative data and work documentation for reporting purposes.

- Assist in annual reporting as requested

- Assist with case management services for youth experiencing sexual exploitation/trafficking.

- Make mandated reports as needed in cases of suspected child abuse or child neglect to Child Protection.

- Participate in collaborative meetings as approved by the supervisor.

- Maintain SWCC presence in the service area by:
  - Making sure community agencies are provided with updated brochures, and Safe Line cards on a consistent basis.
  - Working with the Awareness Committee to conduct programs for Trafficking Awareness Month and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
- Conduct presentations to youth, parents, professionals, and community members.
- Facilitate or co-facilitate support groups for youth
- Actively engage in prevention efforts as appointed
- Assist in planning activities for youth and attend events with youth

Essential Qualifications:

- Balance-Understanding of the dynamics of self-care and the ability and responsibility to recognize one's own needs as it relates to a work-life balance.

- Ability to set and maintain boundaries with co-workers and clients.

- Empathy & Compassion-the ability to respect others and acknowledge their experiences without judgment.

- Inclusive-Possess a strong sensitivity to a wide variety of cultures and beliefs, and lived experiences, even if different from one's own and ability to accept people of diverse racial, cultural, spiritual, economic and age backgrounds.

- Integrity/Honesty-Ability to be self-motivated, take direction, and have open communication with colleagues.
- Possess a strong sense of professionalism as it relates to confidentiality and interactions with co-workers, systems professionals, and other staff.

- Accountable-Ability to take initiative and hold one's self responsible

- Commitment to the mission-Agree with the mission of the SWCC and commit to following protocols and procedures for best practices as it relates to crime victim services.
- Experience working directly with youth or at-risk youth.

- Associate or Bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, social work, criminal justice or closely related field.
- Successful completion of a background investigation
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Ability to travel within 6 County service areas (Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone & Rock). Maintain a clean, reliable vehicle with insurance and possess a valid Driver's License and clean driving record.

Additional Preferred Qualifications

- Knowledge of the intersections between child abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and trauma.
- Knowledge and understanding of how trauma impacts healing on an individual level and cultural level.
- Knowledge of and/or experience with the systems designed to serve individuals experiencing/who have experienced domestic and sexual violence and their children.
- Ability to understand the services, policies and procedures used by criminal justice, family court, human service and healthcare systems.
- Demonstrated ability to negotiate and facilitate collaborative responses for victims of domestic abuse.
- Have a clear understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse and sexual assault causes and its impact.
- Ability to use and learn various technologies

To Apply – send resume, cover letter/letter of interest, and five (5) references to Stephanie Darnell, Youth Program Manager, PO Box 111, Worthington, MN 56187 or stephanie@mnswcc.org. Position Open Until Filled.