

Position Summary

Primary Therapist, Intensive Outpatient Program

The Primary Therapist, Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), will be a key member of a multi-disciplinary team whose role will be to implement an intensive outpatient treatment service to individuals experiencing complex and problematic alcohol and other drugs use.

The primary therapist will use a range of treatment interventions including: Assessment, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and psychoeducation, in the delivery of both individual and group treatment sessions.

The success of the program is contingent upon adherence to both the structural and clinical fidelity of the treatment. This will include: using manualised treatment materials; consistent scheduling and facilitation of all individual and group sessions; collection of weekly random drug/alcohol screens; monitoring of group size; utilisation of peers as co-leaders (when appropriate); and ensuring clients remain engaged through active follow-up.

Key Responsibilities

The primary therapist will be part of the Intensive Outpatient treatment team and will be assigned a caseload of clients. The focus of this role will be:

- To conduct Comprehensive AOD Assessments for all clients assigned to (their) caseload
- To make outgoing referrals for clients deemed unsuitable for the IOP service
- To actively engage with clients and family members so as to build cohesive/supportive relationships
- To facilitate Individual/conjoint family therapy sessions with all clients on caseload
- To facilitate group sessions including Early Recovery Skills (ERS), Relapse Prevention (RP), and Family Education (if required)
- To personally promote attendance by client family members at the family education sessions
- To collect weekly random urine drug screens and/or saliva tests and conduct breath tests with all group members. *note that these are conducted only to track progress not as a punitive measure.
- To conduct active follow-up with clients who do not attend treatment to ensure ongoing program engagement
- To provide treatment that is welcoming, empathic and optimistic, where possible helping to reduce stigma and shame for participants and their families
- To act as a mentor for the development of the (peer) support coordinator
- To participate in weekly clinical supervision with the key supervisor
- To work collaboratively with the broader multidisciplinary team to ensure the efficient, effective and responsive operation of the IOP service (with emphasis on ensuring program fidelity)
- Identify and up-skill peer mentors completing the IOP program

Essential Requirements

Qualifications

- Relevant health and/or welfare tertiary qualification such as Social Work, Psychology, Nursing or Allied Health Sciences
- Certificate IV in AOD or have completed the required competencies

Skills and Experience

- Minimum of 3 years' experience in the delivery of clinical interventions (CBT, Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, etc) with people and families experiencing complex alcohol and other drugs use
- Demonstrated advanced knowledge of the physiology of addiction
- Advanced group facilitation skills
- Proven ability to effectively work with people and families experiencing problematic alcohol and other drugs use in a respectful, compassionate and positive manner

Please note: It is mandatory for the successful applicant to hold a current Working with Children Check and be prepared to undergo a National Criminal History Check prior to commencement

Terms:

This position is initially offered as a full time contract position, 12 months EFT 1.0

Competitive Salary Sacrifice options apply

To Apply

Applications should include:

1. Cover letter addressing the Key Selection Criteria
2. Up to date resume/CV
3. Details of 2 professional referees

*Applications that do not address the Key Selection Criteria will not be considered

Applications should be mailed as follows:

TO: Gayle@firststep.org.au

REF: RSL/Primary Therapist

BY: ASAP

Note: First Step is an independent not-for-profit organisation that provides a safe and nurturing work environment for people of all backgrounds, genders, religions, sexualities, ethnicities or any other factor.