



Job Description Suicide Prevention Specialist

COMPANY BACKGROUND/CULTURE:

Elyssa's Mission® is a 501© (3) non-profit organization that provides resources to help prevent teen suicide.

Elyssa's Mission provides hands-on support to area public and private schools and community organizations to educate students, staff and parents on how to recognize and assist those teens most at-risk. We deliver the evidence-based SOS Signs of Suicide Program in partnership with MindWise Innovations in more than 300 middle and high schools in Illinois. For more information, visit www.elyssasmission.org.

OVERVIEW:

Elyssa's Mission seeks a full-time Licensed Clinical Social Worker (or comparable clinical licensure) to help advance the mission's goal in becoming the leader in suicide prevention and postvention resources in schools across the state.

This individual must be willing to travel to schools throughout the Chicagoland area.

This team member will engage with schools before the implementation of the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program to help establish school protocols for students, staff and parents. In addition, this individual will consult with schools and communities after a death by suicide. They will lead school faculty trainings on suicide prevention and SOS and help to teach or co-teach the content to middle and high school student audiences.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This team member will be trained, as needed, by Elyssa's Mission's mental health partners in suicide prevention and postvention, to gain expertise in these areas. They will be able to proactively support all school partners with the development and/or fine-tuning of essential protocols that must be in place *before* the SOS program can be effectively implemented. They will further proactively support all school partners with the development of and/or fine-tuning of an effective postvention response (crisis plan) in the event the school were to experience the loss of a student due to suicide.

In addition, they must be ready to assist any school (not just limited to current school partners) after a death by suicide with consultation and counseling, fulfilling the immediate needs of the community. The goal in this case would be to help schools through the difficult and tragic events that follow a student's death by suicide, establishing guidelines, where needed, so that schools understand "best practices" for grieving and responding to the varying needs in their community.

This individual will further train schools (staff, students and parents) in suicide prevention education. They will also represent Elyssa's Mission in the community when relevant opportunities arise and/or upon request from community-based organizations (e.g., serving on community-based panels; facilitating or co-facilitating sessions at mental health conferences/trainings; accompanying our grant writer to speak about Elyssa's Mission to prospective funders, etc.).

This team member will also assist *selected* school partners (i.e., as needed) with hands-on support on SOS program days. Specifically, they will aid school mental health staff to provide follow-up assessments with all students "flagged" by the SOS screening component (Brief Screening for Adolescent Depression) and/or will consult with school mental health staff on how to manage difficult/critical situations that arise following these assessments.

This team member will learn the SOS program and be able and willing to assist with all the components that surround the program: teaching, implementing, planning, etc. This individual will share responsibility in assembling information for our grant writer and assist the Elyssa's Mission team with fundraising events.

As needed, this individual must further be willing to assist with the Grief Group Program for students, a program that is brought into schools after a student's death by suicide. The Grief Group Program is intended for those students directly impacted by the death and allows for group discussion and processing.

This team member must be flexible and willing to assist with other areas of development as needed.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Lead partnering schools in the development of suicide prevention and postvention protocols for students, staff and parents
- Provide postvention support after a suicide to schools in need
- Provide consultation to schools on SOS Days
- Provide follow-up assessment to students identified by the SOS screener (BSAD component)
- Lead trainings on suicide prevention in community settings
- Train school staff and parents on suicide prevention education
- Attend trainings, conferences and workshops related to suicide prevention education
- Help maintain relationships with schools that are currently using and/or have previously implemented the SOS program
- Assist, as needed, with implementing the SOS program at designated schools (planning, training, teaching and follow-up on data collection)
- Collaborate with the Director of SOS Programming
- Collaborate with Grief Group Coordinator

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATION:

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience (or comparable clinical licensure)
- Masters in Social Work or related mental health field
- A background in suicide prevention and/or postvention preferred
- Excellent public speaking and training skills
- Excellent written communication skills
- Self-motivated, detail-oriented, highly-organized
- A high level of computer literacy required, including familiarity with Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint
- Candidate must possess a positive attitude and can work flexibly, both independently and within teams
- Ability to multi-task and to prioritize work requirements with minimal supervision

COMPENSATION:

This position offers competitive compensation and benefits. Salary negotiable depending on experience.

Please send resume and cover letter to Maggie Feldheim at maggiefeldheim@elyssasmission.org