



## **Job Posting: Youth Substance Use Counsellor-Integrated Child and Youth Team (ICY) (Ages 8-21)**

Wage Range: \$40.75 - \$50.87 hourly

Hours of Work: 37.5 hours per week

### **Organization Overview:**

Alberni Drug and Alcohol Prevention Services (ADAPS) Youth and Family Services has been providing substance use support to youth and their families since 2002. As the host organization for the upcoming Foundry in Port Alberni, ADAPS is excited to expand its role in youth mental health and substance use services as part of the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) team framework. We are seeking a dynamic and dedicated Youth Counsellor and Peer Support Specialist to join our team and contribute to the overall well-being of children, youth, and their families in the community.

### **ICY Framework Summary:**

The Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) framework offers wraparound mental health and substance use services tailored for youth, designed to ensure seamless transitions between services and reduce the need for children to repeatedly share their stories. The ICY team includes multidisciplinary professionals who collaborate to meet the needs of youth between the ages of 8 and 21, emphasizing trauma-informed, culturally safe, and client-centered approaches. As part of the ICY team, the Youth Counsellor will support mental health and substance use interventions, collaborate with peer supports, and help youth and families navigate the system efficiently.

### **Position Overview:**

The Youth Substance Use Counsellor will play a crucial role in the ICY team, providing youth and family-centered substance use counseling and peer support services. The role focuses on supporting children and youth aged 8-21 within the Pacific Rim School District. You will work closely with the ICY Program Lead, ICY team members, and relevant ADAPS programs,

ensuring integrated, holistic care. Expertise in co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance use) will be a significant asset in this position.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Provide individualized counseling to younger youth (ages 8-12) and adolescents with multiple risk factors for substance use, including those affected by family members' substance use.
- Provide individualized counseling to youth up to the age of 20 who are substance-affected or who have problematic relationships and usage patterns with substances.
- Offer family and caregiver counseling to address the challenges faced by families with substance use issues, helping them support their children in a recovery-focused environment.
- Facilitate youth and family access to peer support, connecting them to services that promote healthy relationships and community engagement.
- Co-manage complex cases within the ICY care system, ensuring collaborative case management and continuity of care, particularly for those with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
- Conduct outreach services to younger children and youth at high risk for substance use, including those with family substance use histories, ensuring they remain connected to educational and social support systems.
- Utilize assessment tools like CRAFFT and CAGE to develop tailored care plans for children and youth that address individual and family-related substance use challenges.
- Support referrals to early intervention, withdrawal management, and supportive recovery services while reducing barriers for youth and families.

### **Qualifications:**

- Master's degree in a relevant field, focusing on the development of children, adolescents, and families.
- A minimum of two years of recent, related experience in community-based individual or family counseling, preferably with experience in substance use counseling.
- Specific experience or training in working with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders is highly valued.
- Training in Motivational Interviewing, Trauma-Informed Practice, and cultural competency/safety, with a strong understanding of harm reduction.
- Experience working with peer support and individuals with lived experience of substance use and mental health challenges.

- Familiarity with Indigenous cultural practices and history, particularly about substance use as a symptom of colonization.

### **Skills and Expertise:**

- Strong counseling skills with the ability to work with younger youth and families from diverse backgrounds, particularly those with multiple risk factors related to substance use.

- Knowledge of harm reduction, substance use, mental health, and co-occurring disorder frameworks.

- Expertise in supporting youth affected by a family member's substance use, helping them navigate both personal and familial challenges.

- Experience in outreach and case management for younger children at risk for substance use or those impacted by a family member's substance use.

- Ability to build rapport with youth and families in non-traditional settings (e.g., street, school, community events).

- Collaborative mindset committed to working as part of a multidisciplinary team.

### **Why Join Us?**

Work in a supportive and dynamic environment that prioritizes resilience and recovery for youth and families. Contribute to the groundbreaking ICY initiative, part of BC's Pathway to Hope strategy. Enjoy a competitive wage with opportunities for professional development and growth within the organization.

### **Application Instructions:**

Interested applicants should email their resumes and cover letters outlining their qualifications and experience to Debra Hamilton, Executive Director, at [debra@adaps.org](mailto:debra@adaps.org). The application deadline is November 8th, 2024.