

New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers

Position Title: Youth & Family Advocate
Reports to: Director of Victim Services
Date of Review: February 2026

Summary: The Youth & Family Advocate is responsible for supporting and advocating for the child victim of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking. The Youth & Family Advocate is responsible for exercising discretion and judgment regarding each individual client's needs to assist the client in obtaining a life free of abuse and its effects. This position serves as the designated contact for McKinney-Vento.

Hours: This position is full-time and provides services in both La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties. The ability to work flexible hours is necessary and duties will require working days, evenings, and some weekends to accommodate client and/or organizational needs. Overtime must have prior approval and/or be assigned by a supervisor. Travel is required.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent required
- Lived experience preferred
- Embracement of the mission of New Horizons
- Experience working with trauma survivors preferred
- Excellent computer skills including knowledge of Microsoft Office required
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously required
- Extreme tact and discretion required
- Experience in crisis intervention preferred
- Knowledge of child development, psychology and education is required
- Knowledge of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking preferred
- Bilingual preferred

Competencies:

- Respectfulness and relationship building – builds constructive working relationships characterized by a high level of acceptance, cooperation, and mutual respect
- Team focused and collaborative – promotes cooperation and commitment within a team to achieve goals and objectives
- Self-accountability and work standards – set high standards of performance for self and assumes responsibility and accountability for successfully completing assignments or tasks

- Stress tolerance – maintains composure in highly stressful or adverse situations
- Conflict management – helps others to effectively resolve complex or sensitive disagreements or conflicts
- Valuing diversity – helps to create an environment that embraces and appreciates diversity
- Confidentiality, integrity, ethics, and trust – maintains confidentiality and earns others’ trust and respect through consistent honesty and professionalism in all interactions

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE

- Models effective communications
- Communicates important information to the direct supervisor. If necessary and appropriate, will communicate to other staff
- Ensures shelter youth are re-entered into school within 72 hours of shelter entrance per mandatory requirements by law
- Maintains appropriate client files, statistics, forms, and other record keeping as required
- Completes all paperwork and entries into the client records database by the end of each workday
- Promptly addresses difficulties or problems appropriately per agency protocol
- Attends and participates in agency meetings as directed by supervisor

DIRECT SERVICES

- Interacts sensitively with traumatized populations
- Understands and utilizes principles of trauma informed care and the empowerment philosophy of advocacy
- Provides a varying number of clients (youth and the non-offending parent) with crisis intervention; supportive and active listening; choices and options; supportive goal-oriented counseling; safety planning; educational counseling related to domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking; resources and referrals to social service agencies; legal advocacy and court support
- Serves as the designated contact for McKinney-Vento
- Provides Crime Victim Compensation information
- Models non-violent conflict resolution and uses non-violent forms of guidance that are culturally sensitive and non-judgmental
- Models and actively promotes positive, nurturing interactions
- Facilitates support groups and peer support
- Takes appropriate steps to deal with emergency situations with the goal of maintaining the safety of all
- Provides cross-departmental and/or cross functional support and direct services as assigned and/or requested

- Participates in related cross-training to ensure consistency and continuity of services and programs of the agency

COMMUNITY PUBLIC RELATIONS, COLLABORATION, AND EDUCATION

- Is socially sensitive
- May be requested to provide public education which focuses on youth and family in relation to domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking
- Establishes sound and collaborative relationships with community groups and service providers
- May be assigned to attend community meetings related to youth and domestic abuse, sexual violence and/or human trafficking
- Is present at functions that promote our organization and access to our services and programs

Other Responsibilities and Requirements:

- Adheres to agency policies and work rules, including strict adherence to New Horizons confidentiality policies
- Has reliable transportation, a valid driver's license, and vehicle insurance
- Is required to attend one Crime Victim Compensation (CVC) Training through the Office of Crime Victim Services within one year of employment
- Is committed to professional development. Trainings and conferences must be related to domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, harassment, or related areas
- Trains and supervises volunteers as appropriate ensuring volunteers receive a well-rounded experience
- Engages in and models supportive, healthy relationships through setting boundaries and demonstrations of respect with clients and co-workers
- Maintains a clean, organized, and comfortable environment within the organization
- Performs other duties as assigned by supervisor

Working Conditions:

- Work is normally performed in an office and/or residential setting but is not limited to the organization
- Constant interpersonal interactions
- Frequent changes in duties, tasks, and circumstances

Acknowledgement:

This description describes the general nature and skills required of this position. The "Principal Duties and Responsibilities" describe the functions considered essential to the position. The description does not state or imply that these are the only duties and responsibilities assigned to the Youth & Family Advocate position.

Employees may be required to perform other duties of the organization related to client services as requested or assigned by the Executive Director. All requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the Executive Director.

The working conditions listed are intended to indicate the kinds of tasks and levels of work circumstances required of the Youth & Family Advocate and shall not be interpreted as declaring what the specific duties and responsibilities shall be. It is not intended to limit or in any way modify the right of the supervisor to assign, direct and control the work of employees under supervision. The use of specific terms or examples of functions shall not be interpreted as excluding other duties not mentioned that are comparable in level of difficulty.

I have read and understand the Youth & Family Advocate position description. I have reviewed the duties, responsibilities, and working conditions of this position. I understand that this document does not create an employment contract between me and New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers. I also understand that I may at any time terminate my employment relationship with New Horizons and I equally understand that New Horizons is an at will employer.

Employee Signature (Printed Name)

Date

Supervisor Signature

Date

December 2009 AMK
Updated: 11/11; 02/14; 10/16;
7/21; 9/24; 2/2026 amk