



Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Louisville Mental Health Specialist (full-time)

Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) Louisville is hiring a full-time Mental Health Specialist (MHS) to provide mental health referrals, coordinate services and wellness programming, and provide intensive case management support.

Clientele will include refugees and immigrants—both adults and children—from a broad range of countries and backgrounds. Clients referred to the MHS for services or intervention often include victims of trauma or domestic violence, survivors of torture, those struggling to adjust or experiencing family problems, and those suffering from depression, anxiety, PTSD, or substance abuse. Clients may need support related to trauma suffered overseas or in the United States.

A primary goal of the KRM's mental health coordination is to facilitate access for clients to mainstream mental health services. However, the MHS will also be expected to adapt the program and services to be more holistic in nature and better reflect the needs of our clients with respect to cultural differences. The MHS must be versatile in providing services and outreach in formats including support groups, community-based mental health services, family counseling, and one-on-one assessments and referrals for therapeutic services. The MHS should be experienced in providing trauma-informed care or mental health services within an agency framework of strengths-based case management and the promotion of client self-sufficiency.

Agency Profile

Founded in 1990 as a nonprofit agency in Louisville, KRM is a local affiliate of Church World Service (CWS), one of nine national voluntary agencies authorized to provide resettlement services to refugees admitted to the United States through the State Department's Refugee Admissions Program. KRM also has offices in Lexington and Covington, Kentucky.

In addition to refugees, KRM serves Afghan, Ukrainian and Cuban parolees, and individuals from various countries who have been approved for, or are applying for, asylum.

KRM secures housing and medical care for refugees and provides them with comprehensive case management including employment services, ESL and cultural orientation, and specialized programs for refugee youth and elders and the arts. KRM also offers citizenship classes for immigrants preparing to apply for U.S. citizenship. KRM's immigration legal services office provides services to immigrants of all statuses. KRM also provides services to immigrant victims of crime.

KRM staff do not engage in any religious messaging in connection to delivery of client services.

Job Responsibilities

Assessment and Referrals

- Receive referrals for mental health support from Refugee Health Assessment, internal staff, community providers, and clients
- Assess client needs and provide psychoeducation regarding emotional health and wellbeing and support services available in Louisville
- Refer clients to appropriate services, which could include individual or family therapy, community mental health offices, psychiatric/medication management, support groups, social services, medical specialists, or internal staff

Case Management

- Assist in scheduling client appointments and coordinate transportation as needed
- Advocate for clients regarding access to interpreters, timely appointments, and culturally appropriate services
- Work closely with other KRM staff to provide intensive case management to help clients overcome barriers to accessing treatment and resources
- Make referrals for assistance with food, clothing, housing, financial and legal issues
- Make case notes and file documentation of services received by clients

Program Development

- Collaborate with community members and leaders to identify needs, then plan and facilitate wellness groups for clients based on identified needs, utilizing culturally appropriate curriculum such as *Pathways to Wellness for Cultural Adjustment*
- Support community providers and leaders among various ethnic groups as they develop and lead programming to address substance abuse and other issues
- Organize alternative wellness activities and community gatherings for clients

Job Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in a related field required. Graduate degree preferred
- Previous experience related to mental health, psychosocial or therapeutic services, or work in a social services or cross-cultural setting
- Strong computer and organizational skills
- Ability to drive and transport clients by car

Specialized Skills

- Experience with, and knowledge of, trauma-informed care
- Ability to work with clients of diverse nationalities and cultures
- Comfort servicing limited-English-proficient clients and utilizing multilingual interpreters
- Compassionate approach with, and advocacy for, refugees and immigrants
- Strong detail-orientation and capacity to provide clear documentation of services
- Ability to work in collaboration with agency resettlement staff

- Commitment to ethical conduct, maintaining appropriate boundaries with clients, and respecting client autonomy

Work Arrangements and Location

- KRM staff are currently required to work at least two-days a week, or 40% of scheduled hours, in-person, either in the office or the field. Remaining hours can be worked remotely. Immediate time-sensitive service requirements may require more than 40% in-office or in-person work. With further decreases in COVID-19 infection rates, more in-office and in-person services may be required on a regular basis.
- All KRM staff must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19

Compensation and Benefits

- Non-exempt position, 40 hours per week, with a pay rate range of \$22/\$23 per hour, with consideration of higher compensation for candidates with advanced education, experience or licensure
- Medical, dental, vision and life insurance; paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days; employee assistance program (EAP)

To Apply

Interested applicants should reply with a résumé and cover letter by Wednesday, January 25, to—

John Koehlinger
Executive Director
Kentucky Refugee Ministries
969-B Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204
Email: jkoehlinger@kyrm.org

Those who have previously applied for a position at KRM are eligible to reapply. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.