



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

Need and clientele. Kentucky Refugee Ministries' (KRM) Louisville office is hiring a full-time Mental Health Specialist (MHS) to conduct initial assessments, make mental health referrals, coordinate services and wellness programming, and provide intensive case management support. Further, the MHS will participate in provider and community education.

The clientele will be comprised of refugees and immigrants—both adults and children—from a range of countries and backgrounds. Many will have limited English proficiency, requiring service delivery using bilingual interpreters. Clients referred to the MHS for assessment or intervention include victims of social violence and trauma prior to their arrival in the United States. In trying to remake their lives in the U.S. in the aftermath of atrocity and loss, clients may additionally struggle with adjustment or acculturation, isolation, financial worries, challenges in navigating complex systems and cultural accommodations, loss of status and identity, and shifting roles within the family. Depression, anxiety, or other severe mental health conditions, substance abuse, and victimization from domestic violence or other crimes may compound mental distress from overseas trauma and resettlement adjustment, or require treatment in their own right.

External referrals supplemented by in-house mental health services. A primary goal of KRM's mental health program is to facilitate access for clients to mainstream mental health services. The MHS will coordinate appointments, including transportation, and ensure that appropriate language support is provided.

Aside from referral to mainstream providers, the MHS will participate in the development of in-house and community-based mental health education and services that are holistic in nature and culturally and contextually appropriate. This will involve psychosocial interventions and programming in family, group and community-based settings. The MHS must be providing services and outreach in a range of formats..

Collaborative approach. To serve the agency's sizable overall clientele, KRM's Mental Health office deploys a collaborative approach, utilizing two full-time staff—the Mental Health Coordinator and the Specialist—with additional support by BSW/MSW/PsyD practicum students, and interns. Referrals to KRM's Mental Health office come mainly from a comprehensive refugee medical screening administered by local clinics contracted and trained through the State Refugee Health Coordinator and KRM case management staff.

Mental health and psychosocial interventions will seek to address barriers to functioning and self-sufficiency caused or exacerbated by mental health conditions. The Mental Health Specialist will coordinate with other agency staff, when needed, to provide case management supports—for example, emergency financial assistance, employment services, housing relocation, medical case management, school liaison services for

parents—to alleviate client suffering and address conditions adversely affecting emotional well-being.

Job Responsibilities

Assessment and Referrals

- Receive referrals for mental health support from Refugee Health Assessment, internal staff, community providers, and client self-referrals
- 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, support groups, community mental health providers, psychiatric care, or other support within KRM (e.g., case management, medical services coordination, family and youth services, employment, housing)
- Coordinate client appointments, language services and transportation as needed

Case Management

- 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
- File SSI-Disability applications for clients with a mental health basis for disability

Provider Education, Collaboration & Support

- Provide information to providers regarding specific referrals and cultural needs
- Expand provider network through outreach, relationship building, networking and education
- Participate in training sessions for providers focused on cultural competency, language access, working with refugees/immigrants
- Participate in community education meetings/discussions on refugee mental health

Wellness Programming and Client Education

- Collaborate with refugee/immigrant communities to identify needs, then plan and facilitate wellness groups for clients based utilizing culturally appropriate curriculum
- Organize alternative wellness activities and community gatherings for clients
- Develop presentations on wellness, resettlement adjustment and access to mental health services at cultural orientation sessions for recently-arrived refugees/immigrants

Program Administration

- Make case notes of services received by clients
- Maintain records of client services databases as required by federal grant funders and in internal records maintained by the KRM Mental Health office

- Support Mental Health Coordinator in preparation of narrative and quantitative reports on mental health services for federal refugee social services funders
- Contribute to up-to-date departmental listing of community mental health resources
- Participate in the coordination and supervision of interns and practicum students

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.

KRM serves refugees and immigrants from dozens of countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Cuba and Haiti.

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.

Educational and Experience Requirements

- Preferred: Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) or graduate degree in a related field: psychology, sociology, counseling or other relevant behavior science. Required: Bachelor's in fields listed above
- Candidates with clinical training, experience and licensure are welcome to apply, though the primary program focus is on referrals, case management and group programming, not direct clinical services
- Two-years' work experience related to mental health or social services including experience serving immigrants

Work Arrangements and Location

- KRM staff are required to work at least three-days a week, or 60% 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 60% in-person work.
- All KRM staff must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19
- Driving and transport of clients is occasionally required

Compensation and Benefits

- Non-exempt position, 40 hours per week
- Pay based on background and experience, between \$25.00 to \$27.00 per hour

- Consideration of higher compensation for candidates with clinical experience or licensure
- Medical, dental, vision and life insurance; paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days
- 401(k) retirement plan with a 5% fully-vested KRM match after one year of service

To Apply

Interested applicants should reply with a résumé and cover letter by Monday, June 24, 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.