



Job Description

Lookout Housing and Health Society is the “safety net” which provides minimal barrier housing and a range of services to destitute and low income adults with few, if any options, and who demonstrate an inability to meet their own needs.

Job Title: **Licensed Practical Nurse**

Classification:

Benchmark Match:

Date Prepared: May 11, 2017

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

JOB SUMMARY:

Practices in accordance with the standards, scope and code of ethics as outlined by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC (CLPNBC) as well as within a client care model and the mission, vision, values and policies of the organization.

The LPN carries out a variety of duties supporting Lookout’s Harm Reduction Program under the direction of the Health Programs Manager, including oversight of harm reduction supplies throughout the Society, orienting and supporting staff to carry out their duties within the harm reduction framework. The people we serve may have a variety of challenging and often overlapping problems including serious mental illness, substance abuse (including IV drug use), hygiene issues, treatment (medical, psychiatric and rehab), and increasingly HIV+/Aids. The position carries out duties related to the operation of the needle distribution including intake and orienting guests, providing support that meets the needs of clients, education on harm reduction methods and distribution of harm reduction supplies. The LPN deals with the public, other service agencies and professionals involved in the support of the clients.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Observes clients who are consuming drugs, assessing for and managing signs of overdose, and when necessary, administering drugs to counter an overdose, according to established protocols.
2. LPNs may also provide education and guidance in safe injection practices, assess clients’ other health/socioeconomic needs and provide support and direction to services as appropriate.

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3. Encourages and supports individuals to make healthy choices and practices through methods such as exchanging needles and provision of health and safety materials such as condoms and referral to life skill training such as anger management courses. Coordinate with other community services to ensure that adequate harm reduction supplies, education and additional assistance is provided to individuals for the activities of daily life to allow them to adjust to normal living, i.e., hygiene, grooming, etc.
4. Ensures fair and equitable access for clients to harm reduction resources and overall treatment to which they are entitled. Provides information that will allow clients to make better-informed health choices for themselves.
5. Provides crisis intervention and/or extraordinary services where appropriate.
6. Encourages clients to take part in recreational and/or social activities by introducing clients to community resources.
7. Participates as a team member with other staff to ensure a safe and caring environment by performing duties such as responding to emergency issues, attending general and team meetings and supporting others through methods such as sharing of knowledge and information. Provide liaison with other agencies, professionals, government officials and the community. Foster positive working relationships between such groups.
8. Maintains records by documenting interactions with clients, maintaining statistical data, individual client cards and log/communication book.
9. Ensures the safety of clients and the premises by reporting unsafe conditions, incidents and/or behaviours, interacting with clients including observing behaviour, investigating disturbances, dealing with emergencies in accordance with guidelines and reporting incidents to appropriate staff or authorities. Records observations for communication to other staff.
10. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training and Experience

- Graduation from a recognized program for Practical Nurses
- Current full practicing licensure with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC (CLPNBC)
- Two (2) years recent experience working as a full scope LPN
- Demonstrated knowledge of the harm reduction model, Mental Health System and related agencies and Addiction Support organizations.

- Valid First Aid certificate
- Crisis Intervention Skills Training an asset

Skills and Abilities

- Demonstrated ability in dealing with a variety of situations and responsibilities requiring initiative, creativity and professional judgment.
- Knowledge and practice within the standards dictated by the CLPNBC
- Ability to deal with clients with mental health and substance abuse issues
- Broad knowledge of harm reduction approach to client care
- Demonstrated ability to apply decision making and analytical skills
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as a member of an interdisciplinary team
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing
- Demonstrated ability to effectively deal with conflict situations
- Demonstrated ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- Demonstrated physical ability to perform the duties of the position
- Knowledge and experience with basic computer programs (Word, Microsoft Outlook)

As of the signed date, I have read and understood the above job description.

Signature

Date