

Resilience
Legal & Medical Advocate, MDT
Job Posting

Position Title: Legal & Medical Advocate, MDT (full-time, non-exempt)

Reports to: Supervisor of Advocacy Services

Salary Range: \$39,500 - \$41,500, commensurate with experience

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Resilience (formerly Rape Victim Advocates) is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through non-judgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group trauma therapy, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Resilience provides public education and institutional advocacy in order to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault. Established in 1974, Resilience now serves more than 2000 survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones annually through our main office in downtown Chicago and our community-based offices in Austin, Ravenswood, and on the Stroger Hospital campus.

GENERAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Sexual Assault Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Advocate is responsible for providing crisis intervention, emotional support, medical and legal advocacy, and appropriate referrals/linkages to sexual assault victims/survivors and their significant others through the emergency department of partner hospitals, telephone crisis calls, and walk-in requests at Chicago Police Department's Area North Detective Division, where the position is co-located. This position works very closely providing institutional advocacy with the Chicago Police Department and Cook County State's Attorney's Office. **The ideal candidate is enthusiastic about being on site at a police station and collaborating and building relationships with law enforcement. While this is an entry level position, we are looking for a candidate with a strong desire to do criminal justice advocacy with officers, detectives and assistant state's attorneys.** This position is part of the on-call staff rotation providing 24-hour crisis response to affiliated hospitals, and is an essential part of the Advocacy Services Program.

This position is part of a new Sexual Assault Multi-Disciplinary Team funded by a grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority that began in 2016. The MDT will be coordinated by the Cook County State's Attorney and brings together the Chicago Police Department, Resilience, and Life Span to improve the criminal justice response to sexual assault survivors. This MDT includes unprecedented opportunities to review case files and evaluate data as well as to develop clear protocol, increase a trauma-informed understanding of sexual assault victims, cross-train and increase access to services for survivors and their loved ones. Please note that this position is fully funded by the MDT grant; the grant has been awarded through 2021.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide in-person support, crisis intervention, and information and referrals to sexual assault survivors.
- Provide crisis intervention, emotional support, and medical/legal advocacy to sexual assault survivors seen in the emergency department of partner hospitals.
- Provide ongoing legal advocacy for sexual assault survivors including: explanation of the investigative process; accompaniment to the police station, and referrals for follow up court accompaniment (in both criminal and civil court cases) Note: like all other Resilience advocates, the MDT Advocate does not participate in the investigation of a case.
- Carry a caseload of active legal clients whose cases are currently under investigation, and keep these clients regularly apprised of their case status.
- Provide ongoing medical advocacy services, as needed (e.g. billing problems, STD and pregnancy testing, HIV testing and treatment, substance abuse programs, DCFS, etc.).

- Carry a caseload of active medical advocacy clients, and keep these clients regularly apprised of their medical follow up appointments and billing status.
- Provide on-call coverage for assigned and rotating shifts as part of the 24-hour hospital crisis response. This involves evenings and some weekends.
- Provide immediate legal advocacy to survivors in the emergency department, and accompanying them to the police stations, as needed.
- Provide information and referrals including temporary housing, food, clothing, locksmith services, substance abuse treatment, counseling, or follow-up medical advocacy services.
- Provide crisis intervention, information, and referrals via the Resilience Area North Office through telephone and in-person contacts.
- Provide support and information to family members and significant others within the bounds of the Illinois rape crisis confidentiality statute.
- Assist the Director of Advocacy Services with institutional advocacy efforts with criminal justice staff including the local Chicago Police Department and Cook County State's Attorney's Office.
- Perform ongoing outreach and networking within the Area North police districts and their communities to foster collaboration & maintain awareness of Resilience office locations and services.
- Maintain accurate and complete records of all services delivered, and adhere to agency and program documentation submission requirements.
- Assist the Volunteer Advocacy Coordinator and Director of Advocacy Services with portions of volunteer training and in-services.
- Support the Training & Outreach Coordinator in offering professional trainings for a variety of audiences through the Resilience Training Institute.
- Attend all staff/supervision/case consultation meetings, attend advocacy in-services, and participate in staff development activities.
- Participate in meetings/trainings for local and statewide sexual assault coalitions, institutional partners, and other agencies, as assigned.
- Participate on internal and external committees or activism, that address issues of responding to sexual violence, trauma-informed care, racial equity, reproductive justice, disability inclusion, economic justice or LGBTQ+ issues.
- Maintain accurate and complete records of all services delivered including evaluation of advocacy services. Adhere to agency and departmental documentation submission requirements.
- Complete monthly reports and documentation, including assisting the Director of Advocacy Services with statistical reporting.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Enthusiasm for doing criminal justice advocacy and developing relationships with law enforcement personnel
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Bilingual (Written and verbal fluency) in Spanish/English preferred; Bicultural strongly preferred
- One year of professional work experience preferred
- Ability to objectively advocate for the needs/rights of others
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Strong public speaking skills with a variety of audiences
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, as well as with a team

- Exceptional organizational and record-keeping skills
- Positive attitude and proactive approach to problem-solving
- Regular access to a vehicle, valid driver's license and proof of insurance for effective service delivery or other reliable means of transportation
- Previous experience working with survivors of gender-based violence and/or human rights issues, addressing sexual violence/domestic violence, and working with diverse populations including LGBTQ communities strongly preferred
- Completion of a minimum of 40-hours of sexual assault training within two months of hire is required; previous completion of the training is strongly preferred

Persons of color and LGBTQ persons are encouraged to apply. Resilience is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in its procedures and policies.

To Apply:

Send cover letter and resume to:

jobs@ourresilience.org

Include Legal & Medical Advocate, MDT and your last name in the subject line.

Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

No phone calls, please.