

Alzheimer Society

DURHAM REGION

Title:	Dementia Care Counsellor
Status:	Full time (35 hours/week)
Reports to:	Manager, Clinical Services
Supervises:	Students and volunteers (as required)

Position Summary:

The Alzheimer Society of Durham Region (“ASDR”) has been selected as a partner site for the delivery of specialized programs developed at The Cyril and Dorothy, Jill and Joel Reitman Centre for Alzheimer's Support and Training at Sinai Health System (“the Reitman Centre”). The Reitman Centre programs have been designed to specifically address the complex needs and challenges of informal care partners taking care of persons with dementia at home. This extensive suite of programs will assist in sustaining family care partners who are clients of Alzheimer Society of Durham Region. The programs deliver unique, targeted and tailored skill-building interventions to address the complex mix of factors that affect care partners’ ability to cope and adapt to the new role of a care partner. The program combines therapeutic principles for managing care partner stress and burden with novel approaches to education and skills training and formal problem-solving techniques. The goal is to equip care partners to better manage the day-to-day care of the person living with dementia and to address emotional stress and to reduce levels of care partner burden.

The Dementia Care Counsellor will have a dual role in supporting persons living with dementia and care partners. The role will include delivering the Reitman Centre program at the ASDR site primarily with care partners of persons living with dementia, in triaging, evaluating, conducting group and individual sessions and delivering high-quality dementia support services through support group facilitation, one-on-one clinical counselling and consultation to family caregivers and persons with dementia. Working in conjunction with the Manager, Community Programs, the role will include outreach to recruit care partners to the Reitman Centre program and build networks with local and regional programs that work with care partners of persons living with dementia. The role of Dementia Care Counsellor will also fulfill all expectations outlined in agency Policies and Procedures.

Responsibilities:

Service Delivery Responsibilities

- Conduct initial screening and assessment with clients, collaborate with clients to develop person-centered goals and plans for client care
- Administers standardized mental health assessment instruments as part of outcome evaluation
- Conducts global assessment of functioning of clients

- Leads innovative training programs and groups for family and/or professional caregivers of individuals living with dementia
- Communicates and collaborates with the local team and network of other Reitman Centre dementia care partner counsellors in the province to provide continuity of care in all settings
- Participates in the creation, evaluation and publication of patient and educator resources
- Contributes positively to client centred patient care through the application of research- based practice
- Organizes leads and implements care partner mental health community education programs
- Develops and implements strategies and tools for dissemination of the Reitman Centre interventions in traditional and non-traditional community settings
- Develops leads and implements programs including community outreach and liaison
- Works with other local and regional dementia and care partner organizations to develop synergies and build capacity
- Consistently attends mentorship and/or supervision meetings with other Reitman Centre dementia care partner counsellors in the province
- Complete regular, intentional follow-up visits with both caregivers and persons with dementia to meet the client-centered goals established in the client care plan.
- Deliver one-on-one dementia specific supportive consultation (resource sharing, education, counselling) in the form of phone, virtual, home, office consultation and support groups
- Facilitate caregiver support groups; ensuring a positive, safe and respected community environment.
- Engage in type or stage-specific support group facilitation (i.e. mild cognitive impairment, early stage support group, young onset); providing an opportunity for persons living with impairment to learn more about the disease, symptoms and symptom management
- Collaborate with other health service agencies and inter-professionals, both internally and externally, to delivery exceptional quality and person-centered care
- Identify community resources for the clinical population served
- Participate in best practice initiatives and team-based projects to advance clinical knowledge and support
- Lend clinical knowledge and skills to the delivery of educational workshops or learning sessions for caregivers or persons living with dementia

Administrative/Organizational Responsibilities

- Maintain accurate client data and information within an electronic client database; documenting within regulatory standards and ASDR program policies
- Maintain case documentation and service delivery statistical data entry in accordance with direct service policy requirements.
- Actively participate in agency related meetings, providing follow up action and involvement as designated, working collaboratively with colleagues in a positive team centered approach
- Represent the Society on community committees as assigned
- Participate and commit to key agency annual fundraising events as required
- Other duties as assigned from time to time

Qualifications:

Education

- Regulated health professional (Master's degree preferred) in social work, nursing, occupational therapy, psychology psychotherapy, or related clinical discipline
- Current membership in good standing with regulatory college that can perform the controlled act of psychotherapy

Experience

- 2 years recent clinical experience in dementia programs and/or dementia care partner programs
- Demonstrated experience facilitating support groups and comfort with delivering programs in a group environment
- Demonstrated experience and skills in individual and group adult and older adult counselling and psychotherapy
- Experience with management of behavioural disturbances in dementia

Other Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, or Certifications:

- Excellent communication skills - written and verbal communication
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, oral (presentation) skills required
- Experience utilizing technology and internet based counselling interventions
- Experience working in simulation based health care is an asset
- French or other second language fluency, an asset
- Demonstrated ability to work and communicate collaboratively and effectively in a complex environment, with both internal and external stakeholders and partners.
- Results oriented, with a positive "can do" attitude.
- Ability to work effectively in a fast paced multi-tasking environment
- Well-developed analytical, problem-solving, change management and organizational skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and within a team
- Expertise and experience in cultural sensitivity and diversity
- Demonstrated satisfactory work performance and attendance history
- Ability to work evenings and weekends as required to meet the demands of the program and the Agency.

Physical Demands

- No special physical demands are required beyond the performance of general office duties

Travel

- Must have insured vehicle and be able to travel throughout Durham Region

TO APPLY:

- Please submit your application to **jobs@alzheimerdurham.com** quoting “**Dementia Care Counsellor**” in the subject title no later than **January 21 at 4:00 p.m.**

No phone calls please. We thank you for your interest in applying to the Alzheimer Society of Durham Region; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Alzheimer Society welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

The Society requires that you be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, subject to any accommodation obligations it may have under human rights legislation.

Disclaimer

This job description indicates the general nature and level of work expected. It is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities required by the incumbent. Incumbent may be asked to perform other duties as required.

Approved: January 2022