Southwest Crisis Center
SUPPORT. ADVOCACY. HOPE.

Position Title: Youth Advocate   **Reports to:** Youth Program Manager
Location: Cottonwood/Jackson with some travel to satellite counties (Nobles, Luverne, Pipestone, Slayton)

Description: This position will work as part of a team to advocate on behalf of youth (up to age 24) experiencing domestic and sexual violence (DV/SA), child abuse, and sexual exploitation/trafficking.

Reports to: Youth Program Manager
Hours: Full-time, 36 hours/week. Monday - Thursday 8am-4:30pm, Friday 8am-12pm
Compensation: Depending on qualifications (NOTE: To receive credit for your education and experience your resume should clearly describe how you meet each of the job duties and qualifications listed, including years and months of experience). Includes benefits and Paid Time Off

Essential Responsibilities

- Provide advocacy, emotional support, crisis intervention, case information and referral services to individuals who have experienced sexual and/or domestic violence, exploitation, trafficking and child abuse. Meeting in-person, via phone or via text.
- Provide supportive listening to youth (up to 24). Assist individuals with identifying their goals and tools needed to reach those goals.
- Assess individual needs and cultural considerations while providing trauma-informed advocacy.
- Provide assistance and advocacy to individuals during: hospital exams, police investigations, court proceedings, and meetings with system personnel and others in accordance with the policies and best practices of the SWCC.
- Assist youth and their families with orders for protections, harassment restraining orders, or other civil remedies available.
- Maintain and ensure confidentiality; follow agency/state policies on requirements related to mandated reporting.
- Be part of the on-call rotation for the 24-hour Safe Line. This includes responding over the phone and in person.
- Document contact and services provided by maintaining accurate, confidential client information in an electronic database in accordance with all agency, state, and federal requirements.
- Maintain a high level of knowledge about services available to youth in the community and provide access to those services.
- Be a resource for community and system professionals .
- Facilitate/coordinate discussion and education groups for victims/survivors
- Provide access to transportation for clients.

- Provide access to safe housing for victims and children (and pets, if applicable) in alignment with the SWCC's Safe House Protocols.
- Provide clear and timely narrative data and work documentation for reporting purposes.
- Assist in annual reporting as requested

- Assist with case management services for youth experiencing sexual exploitation/trafficking.

- Make mandated reports as needed in cases of suspected child abuse or child neglect to Child Protection.

- Participate in collaborative meetings as approved by the supervisor.

- Maintain SWCC presence in the service area by:
   o Making sure community agencies and schools are provided with updated brochures, and Safe Line cards on a consistent basis.
   o Working with the Awareness Committee to conduct programs for Trafficking Awareness Month and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
- Conduct presentations to youth, parents, professionals, and community members.
- Facilitate or co-facilitate support groups for youth
- Actively engage in prevention efforts as appointed
- Assist in planning activities for youth and attend events with youth

Essential Qualifications:

- Balance-Understanding of the dynamics of self-care and the ability and responsibility to recognize one's own needs as it relates to a work-life balance.

- Ability to set and maintain boundaries with co-workers and clients.

- Empathy & Compassion-the ability to respect others and acknowledge their experiences without judgment.

- Inclusive-Possess a strong sensitivity to a wide variety of cultures and beliefs, and lived experiences, even if different from one's own and ability to accept people of diverse racial, cultural, spiritual, economic and age backgrounds.

- Integrity/Honesty-Ability to be self-motivated, take direction, and have open communication with colleagues.
- Possess a strong sense of professionalism as it relates to confidentiality and interactions with co-workers, systems professionals, and other staff.

- Accountable-Ability to take initiative and hold one's self responsible

- Commitment to the mission-Agree with the mission of the SWCC and commit to following protocols and procedures for best practices as it relates to crime victim services.
- Experience working directly with youth or at-risk youth.
- Associate or Bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, social work, criminal justice or closely related field.
- Successful completion of a background investigation
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Ability to travel within 6 County service areas (Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone & Rock). Maintain a clean, reliable vehicle with insurance and possess a valid Driver's License and clean driving record.

Additional Preferred Qualifications

- Knowledge of the intersections between child abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and trauma.
- Knowledge and understanding of how trauma impacts healing on an individual level and cultural level.
- Knowledge of and/or experience with the systems designed to serve individuals experiencing/who have experienced domestic and sexual violence and their children.
- Ability to understand the services, policies and procedures used by criminal justice, family court, human service and healthcare systems.
- Demonstrated ability to negotiate and facilitate collaborative responses for victims of domestic abuse.
- Have a clear understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse and sexual assault causes and its impact.
- Ability to use and learn various technologies

To Apply – send resume, cover letter/letter of interest, and five (5) references to Stephanie Darnell, Youth Program Manager, PO Box 111, Worthington, MN 56187 or stephanie@mnswcc.org. Position Open Until Filled.