



**Mental Health Specialist  
Regular, Full-time, Exempt  
August 2018**

**Our Mission**

Safe Passage is dedicated to creating a world free of domestic violence and relationship abuse.  
We support survivors and their families.  
We engage our community.  
We advocate for systemic change.

Safe Passage provides individualized support to address survivors' holistic needs for safety and healing in the aftermath of domestic violence and relationship abuse. Our programs include emergency shelter, trauma-informed counseling and support groups for survivors, families and children, community engagement and prevention, and individual and system advocacy.

**Expectations of all employees**

In the performance of essential and general job responsibilities, all Safe Passage employees are expected to:

- Demonstrate commitment to Safe Passage's mission and principles of diversity and inclusion.
- Represent Safe Passage in a professional and competent manner to clients, organizational partners, and other stakeholders.
- Perform quality work within deadlines.
- Work effectively as a team contributor on all assignments while contributing to a positive working environment for staff and volunteers.
- Work independently while understanding the necessity for communicating and coordinating work efforts with other employees and organizations.

**Position Purpose**

As a member of Safe Passage's counseling team, the Mental Health Specialist has primary responsibility for providing crisis intervention, advocacy and counseling to survivors of domestic violence. The Mental Health Specialist provides consultation, training, and support to Safe Passage staff and community collaborators to increase agency and community capacity to

provide trauma-informed services to survivors of domestic violence, using a multicultural empowerment model.

**Reports to:** Director of Programs

**Supervises:** Clinical interns; may provide clinical supervision to First Contact and other staff.

#### *Internal Agency Mental Health Consultation*

- Provide consultation and support to Safe Passage staff to increase understanding of mental health issues.
- Accept referrals from other staff as appropriate and needed.
- Support staff with case planning and responding to needs of survivors of domestic violence who have mental health difficulties.
- Serve as agency liaison for Rural/Hill-town Area Domestic Violence Advocate(s) to facilitate relevant and efficient referrals to available resources.

#### *Liaison for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Providers Community*

- Provide outreach, consultation, resources, and professional training to mental health and substance abuse professionals on clinical presentations of patients with domestic violence and complex trauma histories.
- Provide professional training and consultation to mental health and substance abuse professionals on trauma-informed treatment/interventions that reduce risk of re-traumatization of patients with domestic violence and other trauma histories.
- Coordinate outreach, professional training, and curricula with Community Engagement Department.

#### *Counseling & Support Services*

- Provide counseling and crisis intervention to survivors of domestic violence, including individual clinical support for survivors of domestic violence who also have mental health and substance abuse disorders. Note: While this work may be long term, it is not intended to provide psychotherapy across all life issues.
- Facilitate group counseling for survivors of domestic violence focused on managing symptoms of PTSD and Acute Traumatic Stress.
- Case share with members of the counseling team to ensure adequacy of clinical service delivery to all adult Safe Passage clients.
- Provide advocacy and referrals on issues related to housing, public assistance, disability issues, employment, education, and children's issues.
- Provide backup relief and hotline coverage in rotation with other direct service staff.

- Provide Mental Health assessments as needed, including for clients applying for changes in immigration status and for those residing in Safe Passage's confidential shelter.
- Provide call-consultation and clinical supervision to First Contact staff, including counseling interns.

#### *Program Administration*

- Maintain appropriate files, records and statistics, and submit reports and information as needed for reporting to funders, Board of Directors, and others.
- Participate in supervision meetings, counselor meetings, staff meetings, task forces and committees, and outreach events.
- Seek out training professional development opportunities to increase skills and knowledge about current issues.

#### *Community Engagement & Clinical Intern Coordination*

- Provide training and outreach to Safe Passage staff, volunteers, community partners, and/or other stakeholders.
- Recruit and supervise clinical interns annually.
- Maintain relationships with graduate placement sites and keep internship listings current at prospective colleges and universities.

### **Qualifications**

#### *Required*

- LCSW, LICSW or LMHC required
- Minimum four years of experience providing clinical support and counseling to survivors with trauma and/or who have experienced domestic violence
- Knowledge of generally accepted counseling practices, standards, and legal responsibilities
- Skill and experience in facilitating support groups
- Ability to advocate effectively on behalf of clients using a multicultural empowerment model
- Familiarity with community resources and systems
- Proficiency across the following skills: verbal and written communication, collaboration, organization, and computer / technology
- Reliable transportation
- Ability to work on a flexible schedule, including occasional evening and weekend work

#### *Preferred*

- Bilingual skills (Spanish and English)

**Work Hours**

This position is 35 hours per week, generally M-F, 9-5. Occasional evening and weekend commitments will be required.

**Classification, Benefits, and Compensation:** This is a regular, full-time, exempt position. We offer a comprehensive benefits package. Starting salary will be competitive and based on experience and qualifications.

**To apply:** Send cover letter and resume to [sjobs@safepass.org](mailto:sjobs@safepass.org) with the subject line of "Mental Health Specialist."

For more information about Safe Passage and domestic violence, visit our website at [www.safepass.org](http://www.safepass.org).

Safe Passage works on a daily basis to earn its position as a justice-centered employer of choice in Western MA. Toward this goal, Safe Passage is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a strong organizational commitment to the achievement of excellence, diversity, and inclusion among staff.