

Youth School Advocate

Job Description

Position: Youth School Advocate

Reports to: Youth Program Manager

Status: Exempt

Organizational Description:

Awaken is a non-profit organization based in Reno, Nevada. Our mission is to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation and to provide housing and restoration for its victims. Our vision is to transform our community with the ultimate goal of eradicating commercial sexual exploitation. We aim for victims to be restored to their fullest potential. We aspire to be an inspirational model for other communities.

Job Description:

Awaken is a host site for a specialized holistic restorative and educational experience for youth who have been trafficked. After experiencing trauma, it is vital to pace victim's re-entry back into the school system and Awaken is one step in that re-entry process. The educational experience allows for the students online schooling to take place at Awaken. This provides victims with the onsite support of tutors, mentors, and case managers to create a holistic educational experience. The Youth School Advocate will oversee and manage these opportunities.

Responsibilities:

The Youth School Advocate provides a safe, supportive environment for trafficked youth to participate in their online school activities. The Awaken Youth School Advocate is responsible for the coordination of hosting the online school for trafficked youth at the Awaken facility. Services are delivered from a strengths-based, program participant-centered, culturally sensitive, and appropriate developmental approach. Particular attention is paid to a victim centered and trauma informed approach.

- The Youth School Advocate will develop and monitor school plans with victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) by:
 - Managing school hours
 - Creating individualized goal plans
 - Maintaining progress notes for each program participant
 - Maintaining coordination with case managers, mentors, tutors
- Become familiar with resources and community services that meet the needs of the

program participants

- Assist program participants in accessing resources to help meet their individualized goals
- Cooperate with other agencies in the social service system to provide good networking of program participant services
- Responsible for tracking all data necessary for grant reporting
- Participate in weekly staff meetings, Awaken meetings, and the Awaken training days
- Available to offer transportation to and from the Awaken Center for school activities
- All other duties as assigned by the Youth Program Manager and the Youth Intervention Director

Key Competencies:

- Strong understanding of the impacts of sex trafficking & sexual assault on youth, young adults & trans-identified youth
- Ability to assess, evaluate and treat program participants
- Understand the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual abuse treatment, human-trafficking, developmental issues, substance abuse, as well as the challenges faced by transition-age youth
- Interact with other agencies in a professional manner
- Have good organizational skills, be reliable and punctual
- Must be a team player
- Must be self-motivated and interested in improving skills and knowledge to grow with the expanding needs of the organization
- Ability to maintain professional boundaries with program participants
- Sensitivity to issues concerning survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking, i.e., trauma, self-esteem, assertiveness, empowerment, violence prevention and victims' rights
- Awareness of and sensitivity to the cultures represented in Washoe County
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to relate well with persons from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
- Flexible hours to accommodate the needs of the position;
- Availability to rotate in a weekly on-call schedule to respond to emergency calls for assistance with crisis victim services. The on-call schedule includes after-hours and some weekends

Qualifications:

- BA degree preferably in education, social work, or counseling
- Exceptional interpersonal, writing, speaking and presentation skills required
- Strong understanding of trauma and recruitment techniques for traffickers
- Background check and fingerprint clearance required
- Proficiency in Apple and Microsoft Office suites
- Reliable transportation, valid driver's license, and clean driving record

Personal Attributes & Values:

- Must constantly demonstrate a high level of personal professionalism, honesty, integrity and respect with all program participants, board members, staff, volunteers, churches and other contacts
- Must demonstrate passion for Awaken's vision and mission
- Must maintain an atmosphere of confidentiality with program participants and staff information
- Friendly, approachable attitude and ability to remain open-minded when encountering diversity in thought, gender, culture, language and behavior
- Ability to thrive in a small nonprofit and wear multiple hats, as needed