

## Adolescent Young Adult (AYA) Psychosocial Program Specialist

### Position Summary

The Adolescent Young Adult (AYA) Psychosocial Program Specialist (PSPS) is a program leader with clinical expertise and program management skills. The AYA PSPS is responsible for leading, developing, and expanding the program that provides psychosocial care resources for City of Hope AYA hematology and oncology patients. The position is a full-time, grant funded position for two years with possibilities for extension with additional funding.

Cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship pose unique social, emotional, physical and developmental challenges to older adolescent and young adult patients (15 to 39 years of age). To date, AYA efforts at City of Hope have been led by a multidisciplinary team of psychosocial, nursing, and rehabilitation care providers. This team has laid the groundwork for an AYA program by assessing the needs of our patients, reviewing offerings by other institutions, and researching evidence-based interventions. Resources have been developed to complement those already available at City of Hope to address psychosocial distress at all levels ranging from the need for information to the need for social or mental health support. The AYA PSPS will guide the program to its next stage by utilizing systems to identify and triage needs in City of Hope AYAs, running programs developed to address distress, engaging in program improvement, meeting with key stakeholders to explore gaps in care, educating care providers on resources and how to access them, engaging in fundraising efforts, and participating in research initiatives.

This position involves active leadership; participation in multidisciplinary program development and evaluation; understanding of multidisciplinary treatment modalities; and collaboration with key stakeholders. The PSPS actively works to ensure optimal delivery of psychosocial care and leads performance improvement efforts. The PSPS is expected to lead in patient education programs, policy writing, and research and program development.

### Essential Functions

- Work with multidisciplinary team to implement program to address unmet AYA physical, social, informational, and emotional support needs.
- Develop and implement system of identifying and screening AYAs and triaging them according to needed level of care to available resources
- Track and implement screening at regular intervals
- Lead patient education groups and programs including *Young Adults Connecting* and *ConnectU*
- Engage in program improvement efforts to identify additional needs or gaps in care
- Assist with program development based on identified gaps in care
- Collaborate with key stakeholders both within (e.g. physicians) and external to City of Hope (e.g. Stupid Cancer, First Descents, Elephants and Tea, Cactus Cancer, Dear Jack Foundation)
- Maintain social media presence for AYAs informing of resources and pertinent issues in line with City of Hope social media guidelines
- Works as an ambassador for the AYA@COH program
- Coordinates with Development to create funding streams to support the program
- Performs other related duties as assigned or requested

## **Expectations**

- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Passion for and previous experience with patients in the AYA age group
- Self-sufficient and self-motivated approach to project management
- Respectful understanding of and sensitivity to cultural differences and diversity
- Proficient team-building skills
- Uses effective decision-making, evaluation and problem-solving skills in managing program and patient care needs
- Pursues further development of clinical skills and professional growth
- Effectively leads groups and committees
- Demonstrates compassion, warmth, insight, objectivity, and appropriate professional boundaries
- Follows established City of Hope and department policies, procedures, objectives, performance improvement, attendance, safety, environmental, and infection control guidelines, including adherence to the workplace code of Conduct and Compliance Plan
- Practices a high level of integrity and honesty in maintaining confidentiality

## **Qualifications**

- Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) or a related field (LPC, MFT).
- License in Clinical Social Work or related field.
- Applicants with dual master's degree in related healthcare field must be licensed within 2 years of hire or promotion to position. Two years of experience working in oncology preferred.

## **Oversight**

- Clinical oversight to be determined based on clinical degree
- Program oversight: Jeanelle Folbrecht, PhD, Program Director
- Work closely with AYA Psycho-Social Team

**Below is the link for candidates to apply:**

[https://aa067.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=10017309&lang=en&sns\\_id=mailto#.YruUaGNbqnk.mailto](https://aa067.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=10017309&lang=en&sns_id=mailto#.YruUaGNbqnk.mailto)