



### **Primary Function**

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Director both directs and/or personally provides crisis intervention, assessment, outreach, on-going counseling, and other support services for runaway youth and their families, and those at-risk for running away, in accordance with program objectives and agency policies and procedures. The Director leads and supervises a team of program support personnel and also establishes and maintains productive relationships with schools, law enforcement, a wide network of community-based human service organizations, county human services, the court system and other interested and connected services that ensure the program operates at an exemplary level and retains and grows the resources needed to support itself.

### **Essential Functions**

- Train and orient staff to all necessary functions of the program and to best practices in runaway intervention and prevention. Runaway staff furthermore receive ongoing training in key areas such as child sexual abuse prevention and suicide risk assessment and prevention.
- Resources are maintained and secured to support program operations.
- Develop and maintain crisis intervention and guidance/counseling activities.
- Actively pursues and effectively implements current and emerging knowledge of effective runaway intervention and prevention strategies.
- Participates in community networks and coalitions.
- Develops a working knowledge of the county-level system of youth and family services (e.g. courts, mental health, protective services, juvenile intake, etc.) and a working knowledge of local, state and federal laws as they relate to runaway and homeless youth.
- Ensures the activities of the program are well-integrated with the related functions of the Youth Resource Center and the organization's youth development services.

### **Preferred Education & Experience**

- Master's degree in counseling, Social Work or related degree
- Two years' experience working as a guidance and counseling or social work professional, preferably with at-risk children, youth and families
- Demonstrated ability to work well with children, youth and parents.
- Good oral communication skills including the ability to coordinate communications with other professionals on case presentations or on programs or topics such as suicide, runaways, parenting, family communications, etc.
- Written communication skills including the ability to accurately and succinctly complete a variety of paper work including both narrative and statistical compilations.
- Guidance and counseling skills that include knowledge of counseling methods, the ability to apply a knowledge of counseling methods into practice, the ability to establish key plans and implement them in the time allowed, knowledge of group process and dynamics, and the ability to manage stress.
- Ability to maintain professional boundaries and build trust and respect
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Knowledgeable about youth development, crisis intervention, trauma and conflict resolution.
- Ability to work with diverse populations.
- Demonstrated leadership skills and the ability to motivate and inspire.
- The ability to exude confidence and maintain control of a safe and positive youth development environment.
- The ability to work independently and efficiently.