About Health Equity Initiatives

Health Equity Initiatives (HEI) is a Malaysian based organization that advances the right to health for marginalized communities. To this end, HEI implements an integrated mental health program that adopts a community based, participatory approach for re. The core of HEI’s program is community based interventions which engage closely with refugee community organizations to recruit and develop community health workers (CHWs) to carry out mental health interventions at the community. HEI is currently recruiting a PsychoSocial Support Officer. This position has the following roles and with it, the tasks that is required to perform this role.

1. The role of patient management at the community centre, in the community, at the healthcare facilities and all other facilities has the following responsibilities
   - Co-ordinate with the relevant team members and other stakeholders in their access to healthcare facilities and provide support for the refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia according to the policies and protocols as set out by the organization
   - Co-ordinate with the relevant team members and other stakeholders in any other areas and such other tasks that are related to expanding the protection space in making referrals for protection and services according to the policies and protocols as set out by the organization
   - Supporting the mental health clinics and ensuring the dissemination of information arising from the mental health clinics
   - Conducting home visits to assess the needs of patients who require psychosocial interventions
   - Prepare documentation and of reports of patients
   - Maintain a directory of the available referrals of service providers

2. The role of capacity building has the following responsibilities
   - Conduct these training where necessary
   - Supporting the development of guidelines
   - Attending internal and external trainings in towards your continuous professional development. In opportunities where you attend external trainings on behalf of the organization, you are to transfer the knowledge towards collectively building the capacities of the team.

3. The role of organizational representation has the following responsibilities
   - To attend external meetings and trainings where necessary
   - To provide documentation of your participation
   - Supporting community outreaches when necessary
Requirements
At least a Diploma in Psychology or Social Work
A passion to serve.

Interested applicants, please email your CV/Resume admin@healthequityinitiatives.com with the subject header “PsychoSocial Support Officer”

Health Equity Initiatives

Community Based Mental Health

Mental Health Services

Research Driven Advocacy

Internships and Electives for Students of Medicine and Psychology
Health Equity Initiatives (HEI) is a non-governmental community-based organization of health professionals with a mission to advance the right to health for marginalized communities.

We achieve this through partnership with refugee communities on health; undertaking mental health interventions; training of medical students on the right to health and refugee health; and research led advocacy initiatives with and through the communities we work with.

Our Mission and Goals

Founded on a commitment to serve the poorest of the poor, our mission is to promote and protect the right to health of marginalized communities. We believe that universal access to affordable and quality health care is a fundamental human right. We recognize that community participation and empowerment are instrumental to the realization of these rights.

Our unique model of intervention strategically combines community-based interventions with service provision and research-driven advocacy. This model enables us to actively engage in national, regional and global partnerships that foster equity and justice in health.

Our four integrated programs enable us to achieve our goals. They are the Community Based Mental Health Program, Mental Health Services, Research Driven Advocacy, and Internships and Electives for Students of Medicine.

Our Programs

The Community Based Mental Health Program facilitates the community’s participation in protecting and promoting their health and increasing their agency.

The training of volunteer refugee community members as Community Health Workers (CHWs) on mental health is the foundation of the Community Mental Health Program.
The volunteer CHWs undertake a wide range of activities including identifying signs and symptoms of mental health distress in the community, making referrals to service providers, undertaking simple supportive interventions, translation, making home visits to support treatment adherence, and supporting the community based interventions.

CHWs also undertake psycho-education activities and do mental health screening during community outreach visits.

**Mental Health Services** Our Mental Health Services team comprises of volunteer CHWs, Psychosocial Support Officers, Counselors, Clinical Psychologists and Psychiatrists. The team is led by HEI’s founder and director and Mental Health Services Director, who is a Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist.

Pathways to the Mental Health Services are through our community based mental health screening undertaken by CHWs during outreach visits, and referrals from the community, CHWs, NGOs, and UNHCR.

Adopting a multi-disciplinary approach, our Mental Health Services team provides clinical assessments, psychological and behavioral interventions, pharmacological treatment, treatment adherence support, psychosocial support services and daycare for the rehabilitation of patients with acute schizophrenia.

**Psychosocial Support Services** facilitates the access to healthcare at private and public facilities; make referrals to a network of service providers for social support and security concerns interventions; and where in situations where our patients are arrested, make interventions through UNHCR. Our Psychosocial Support Services also works closely with medical doctors, partner NGOs, faith based organizations, and international organizations to provide referrals to these services. These services are provided as part of the patient’s treatment plan together with the Mental Health Service Providers, CHWs, and community leaders.
We provide additional support in the form of a transportation subsidy and/or transportation services to certain vulnerable sub-populations like women, the chronically mentally ill, and those with severe mental illnesses to enable them to complete their treatment.

**Trauma and Torture** - HEI provides specialized and multi-dimensional services for individuals who have experienced trauma and torture. The range of mental health, physical health and supportive services are culturally and gender specific. These services are also extended to the families of individuals who have experienced torture.

**Research Driven Advocacy**

Our research driven advocacy seeks to demonstrate the links between social marginalization and ill-health. Our research projects monitor the right to health of the communities we work with. This enables us to advocate for the development of just, fair and inclusive policies that enable disadvantaged communities to gain control over their health.
Internships and Electives for Students of Medicine

We work to build health professionals’ capacities on the right to health through our internship and elective programs. We have hosted students from Malaysian and foreign universities. These internships have also produced research that has contributed to HEI’s advocacy.

For more information, please contact: Health Equity Initiatives Sdn Bhd
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