

Position: Congregation-Based Geriatric Social Worker

Reports to: Geriatric Services Manager

Application Process: Email resume and cover letter to Thomas LaSalvia at lasalviat@jfsann Arbor.org. No phone calls, please.

For over 25 years, Jewish Family Services (JFS) has provided quality, comprehensive aging services and innovative programming to meet the burgeoning needs for senior services in Washtenaw County. With significant demographic changes in Washtenaw County's population, JFS recognizes the current and future unmet needs of vulnerable seniors and their caregivers. True to the JFS mission of creating solutions, JFS is creating an innovative new position-- Congregation-Based Geriatric Social Worker—to improve the organizational capacity of JFS and partnering faith-based organizations; ultimately enhancing the lives of the aging and their caregivers.

The social worker will provide social work services in the congregation setting at Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor. Additional Jewish faith based communities, will also be invited to receive services through an incremental presence. The purpose is to provide support to the local aging Jewish community through the portals of synagogues, serving community members who feel safe in the context of the congregation but whose needs for resource navigation, services and support may exceed what clergy and staff can currently provide. The social worker will be a bridge to broader JFS Older Adult Services and all of its offerings.

PURPOSE/SCOPE of RESPONSIBILITY:

To assess and provide care management, resource advocacy, service navigation and support in multiple forms (potentially individual, family and group support) to Jewish older adults, their families and caregivers who are affiliated with Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth. The purpose is to maximize functioning, improve quality of life, and enhance access to and efficient use of needed services. The social worker will further serve congregants by acting as a liaison, connecting them with JFS resources and additional staff and services as needed.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Assesses needs of older adults and their caregivers and any barriers to well-being.
2. Provides counseling and support to clients, families, caregivers to either stand alone or augment counseling they engage in with clergy.
3. Identifies and navigates resources relevant to client's needs and helps client access local, state and federal benefits and services, making appropriate referrals as needed and follow up to monitor service delivery.
4. Advocates for the client with other service providers to ensure service needs are being met.
5. Organizes and facilitates educational programs (one time or ongoing) and/or support groups as identified by the congregation as potentially beneficial.
6. Maintains client and clergy confidence by keeping information confidential.
7. Works closely with staff at the congregations and JFS to conceive of, customize and offer programming to best meet the needs of the aging Jewish community.
8. Regularly attends congregation services and special programs to engage and integrate in the congregation life and to enhance the community's access to SW.
9. Attends congregation staff meetings and performs functions as a member of congregation (x2) staff, including leadership roles in congregation volunteer activities.
10. Consistently and reliably provide program data to a third-party evaluator as this innovative program will be formally evaluated so that it can be replicated amongst other faith-based congregations

EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATIONS

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker, LMSW with 3+ years of clinical experience.
- Demonstrates thorough Jewish Cultural Competence.
- Ability to demonstrate excellent communication skills both oral and written as well as strong interpersonal skills. Must have a basic understanding of evaluation and be well-organized with regards to data collection and management.
- Geriatric experience is preferred.
- Computer literate. Must be able to utilize computer documentation software.