

Victim Services of Durham Region, Child and Youth Advocacy Centre

605 Rossland Road East, Box 911, Whitby, ON L1N 0B8

Year 2 Practicum

September 2024 – April 2025

Practicum Description

Victim Services of Durham Region (VSDR) assists individuals and their families in the immediate aftermath of crime or sudden unexpected tragedy. We work with victims and survivors of Domestic Violence, Family Disputes, Homicide, Assaults, Robbery, Human Trafficking, and much more. We support these individuals by assisting them in attaining their goals and being connected with long term supports. We also continue to advocate for the needs of these clients when they are navigating service gaps or barriers. Some of the offered services involve: safety planning, needs assessment, advocacy, attending inter-agency meetings on behalf of clients, as well as assisting with funding application and options. Our referrals come from The Durham Regional Police, Violence Against Women Shelters, Self-Referrals & Community Services.

The Durham Region CYAC model will bring system and community-based service providers together to create a more coordinated, multidisciplinary approach in a welcoming, trauma-informed and age-appropriate environment for children and youth who have experienced abuse, and their families. The model minimizes additional systemic trauma and re-victimization by limiting the number of times children/youth must repeat their story, provides early and seamless access to services, and ensures families have adequate support and follow-up.

The CYAC **Child & Youth Program Coordinator Student Placement** will be supporting the CYAC Program manager in garnering the necessary information related to federal and provincial standards of developing CYAC's to ensure policies, governance structures and the overall systems are aligned with best practices nationally.

Responsibilities:

- Designs and supports policy development and research studies for organizational programs and initiatives.
- Assists program manager/project lead with developing program deliverables alongside key community partners
- Conducts research for a variety of stakeholders (i.e. CYAC partners, Departmental Executives, external groups, etc).
- Provides assistance to community engagement committee by attending community events and coordinating CYAC appearances at community events

CYAC STUDENT PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION

- Creates internal and external documents, reports, and presentations (i.e. terms of reference, information requests, briefing notes, policy papers, when required etc).
- Provides technical assistance (i.e. developing proposals, assessment reports, evaluation criteria, and writing support)

- Administers surveys (i.e. community feedback surveys, partnership surveys, etc) on behalf of the organization
- Supports representation of CYAC on relevant committees (i.e. website committee, planning group, etc)
- Attend relevant CYAC committee meetings and (when required) take notes

Practicum Requirements

- Police Reference/Vulnerable Sector Check
- Travel by public transportation between home visits, or satellite offices, or community meetings, etc.
- Comprehensive report writing and documentation

Fields(s) of this Practicum:

- Children and their Families
- Social Justice and Diversity
- Mental Health and Health
- Human Services Management & Leadership

Please indicate whether this practicum will be in-person, remote or hybrid.

Hybrid

Please indicate whether this practicum will involve direct work or a mix of direct and indirect.

Mixed

Field Instructor(s)' name and credentials: Cristal Hines, BSW, MSW Candidate and Sydney Marcoux, MSW

Accessibility Considerations:

- Will the student have access to a private space for notes or computer use? Yes
- Are there breaks between clients/patients/meetings? Yes
- Is the practicum considered fast-paced? Medium
- Is there a high noise level in the practicum? Low
- Is the site wheelchair accessible? Yes
- What are the physical demands of the practicum? N/A
- Are there any other accessibility considerations that potential applicants with disabilities should be aware of? N/A

Students registered with University of Toronto Accessibility Services may receive appropriate accommodations for practicum settings. To register: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/> or call 416-978-8060

If you are interested in this practicum, please send a cover letter and resume to alexi.sparaggis@utoronto.ca by April 26, 2024. Applications will be forwarded on to the site.