

SOCIAL WORKERS

(Source: CIHI publication Health Personnel Trends in Canada, 1995-2004)

Definition

Social workers promote social change aimed at improving conditions that impact on the health and well being of individuals, families, groups and communities; they provide counseling, therapy and problem solving interventions to create a functional relationship between the system and those that interact with it.

Responsibilities/Activities

The areas of practice for social workers within institutional and community health settings include: policy development, program planning, program management, research, consultation, case management, discharge planning, counseling, therapy and advocacy. Social Workers use a variety of specific approaches and interventions that are largely based on principles of social justice and theories of human behavior and social systems. Modalities of service include discharge planning, networking with community agencies, counseling ranging from financial counseling to adjustment to illness counseling and psychotherapy, patient and family education, team consultation.

Practice Setting

Social Workers are usually employed in hospitals, community health centers, mental health clinics, schools, advocacy organizations, government departments, social service agencies, child welfare settings, family service agencies, correctional facilities, social housing organizations, family courts, employee assistance programs and private counseling, school boards, and consultation agencies.

For more information go to www.casw-acts.ca