

## JOB DESCRIPTION



**Title:** Adoption Social Worker, Birth Parent Services and Outreach

**Reports to:** Associate Director, Domestic Adoption

**Department:** Domestic Adoption

### I. Primary Purpose

Spence-Chapin's mission is to help find loving families for children whatever their needs or circumstances and provide counseling and support for all children and the families to whom they have been born or entrusted. We are a private non-profit organization who has been providing adoption services in New York and New Jersey for over 100 years.

Spence-Chapin is seeking a dedicated social worker to provide counseling and support to biological parents who are considering a voluntary adoption plan for their child, empowering them to make the best decision for their child and for themselves. Responsibilities include conducting individual counseling, writing psychosocial histories, visiting clients in hospital and community, discharging babies from hospitals, facilitating selection of and meeting with adoptive parents, assisting in placement and/or return of infants, and referring clients to community support services.

This individual will conduct outreach, education, and training to promote Spence-Chapin's options counselling services for biological parents considering adoption, advance community awareness of adoption, and increase referrals to Spence-Chapin.

### II. Key Performance Indicators

#### **Counseling and Case Management:**

- Provide direct client services/social services that require the use of clinical skills and judgement
- Provide "options counseling" to pregnant and postpartum women considering adoption for their new-borns and young children
- Visit clients in the hospital and at home as needed
- Represent the agency at hospitals; discharge babies from hospitals to the agency's interim care program
- Determine client's need for services and make referrals to resources outside of the agency
- Gather bio-psycho-social background information, formulate assessments and write histories
- Educate clients on best practices in adoption. Guide clients in planning, including making a hospital plan, matching with adoptive families, reviewing legal documents and securing an optimal post surrender contact plan
- Participate in adoptive placement and reuniting infants with their biological families
- Provide short-term, supportive and bereavement counseling to clients who have placed a child
- Actively participate in weekly supervision with direct supervisor
- Perform any other department or agency-related duties or special projects as directed by supervisor
- Participate in organization-wide events

**Outreach and Trainings:**

- Provide birth parent outreach, education and training to professionals at local hospitals, clinics and social service organizations
- Strengthen existing relationships and take initiative to identify and build new relationships with healthcare and social service organizations through phone calls, emails, direct mail, site visits, community events and in-service presentations (virtual and in person).

**III. Education & Experience**

- MSW from an accredited school of social work
- A minimum of two years MSW experience
- NYS license to practice social work
- Must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record
- Experience in adoption and/or pregnancy counseling preferred; must have at least one-year counseling

**IV. Technical Skills**

- MS Office –Proficiency in Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Experience with database platforms and entering case notes

**V. Key Competencies**

- Must be open and flexible to demands of on-call schedule and field work including weekends and some evenings
- Demonstrated clinical and supervisory experience
- Strong oral and written communication, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Strong organizational skills with ability to meet tight deadlines
- Ability to multitask; strong execution skills; thorough follow through and attention to detail
- Strong analytical skills; critical thinking and problem solving
- Experience working with domestic violence mental illness, homelessness, foster care, and substance abuse a plus
- Spanish or Mandarin speaking a plus