VSW Keystone Project Proposal

Name:

Jane Doe

Name of the facility hosting your project:

Example Animal Hospital

Describe the mission of the facility (for example, animal rescue, emergency veterinary care, animal-assisted therapy for children with autism, serves victims of domestic violence, etc):

Example Animal Hospital is a large 24-hour hospital which offers one of the most comprehensive collections of veterinary specialties (critical care, internal medicine, oncology, neurology, radiology, surgery, ophthamology) in the area. Their mission is to create a collaborative environment in which every member of a pet's health team, including the primary care veterinarian, may work together to provide optimal and comprehensive state of the art care. Example Animal Hospital is committed to providing compassionate and empathetic support for patients' families as they pursue a better quality of life for the animals in their lives.

Facility Contact Person's Name:

John Doe

Facility Contact Person's Email Address:

JohnDoe@fakeemail.com

Facility Contact Person's Phone Number:

555-555-5555

Is your Facility Contact Person also the Veterinarian who is consulting on your project?

Yes

Project Information

Which VSW content area will be highlighted by your project? (select all that apply)

Compassion Fatigue & Conflict Management

Animal-Related Grief & Bereavement

Please give a concise description of your proposed project:

My service learning project at Example Animal Hospital will have a three-fold focus: to work with onsite doctors, staff, and referring veterinarians to understand the role of a veterinary social worker and how to access and refer to onsite services; to provide pet loss and grief support services to clients (anticipatory and bereavement); to address compassion fatigue management for doctors and staff.

Please list the measurable objectives of the project, and how you will track the project's efficacy:

Objectives:

1.) Help onsite doctors, staff, and referring veterinarians understand the role of a veterinary social worker and how to access and refer to services.
   a. Goals:
       i. Provide psychoeducation and training to onsite doctors, staff, and referring veterinarians on the role of a veterinary social worker within the scope of services (e.g., being a support to clients having difficulty making care decisions, supporting clients during the loss of a pet, providing support to doctors and staff through compassion fatigue and the daily stress of emergency medicine).
       ii. Create an efficient and convenient process for doctors and staff to access veterinary social worker and refer clients when appropriate.
2.) Provide pet loss and grief support services.
   a. Goals:
       i. Facilitate a weekly pet loss support drop-in group ("drop in" – refers to an ongoing group that is open to clients/general public and does not require registration or advanced notice to attend). The bereavement support group is process-oriented by nature and also provides grief psychoeducation, coping skills, and resources to participants.
       ii. Outreach phone calls to all clients within 2 weeks of their animal's death. Phone calls provide condolences, grief support, psychoeducation, information on support group, and (when appropriate) referrals to community mental health resources.

     iii. Through psychoeducation and training, help doctors and staff understand the differences for a client who is experiencing anticipatory grief vs. post death grief.

     iv. Provide individual support to clients (anticipatory and post-death grief).

3.) Address compassion fatigue management for doctors and staff.

  a. Goals:

     i. Define compassion fatigue, provide psychoeducation and supportive services (as needed, individual, group, all staff meetings)

     ii. Query/survey in order to obtain historical and baseline information regarding compassion fatigue management. For example: Do doctors/staff feel compassion fatigue management an issue or concern? What has been implemented in the past or is currently being implemented? What has worked or been useful/helpful? What has not worked?).