

The Power of Social Work



Social Work is a helping profession dedicated to improving the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Utilizing their knowledge of human behaviour and social systems, social workers help people realize their potential and assist them to enjoy full, active and creative lives. They help people in every stage of life, ensuring they get the help they need from the best resources available.

With their knowledge of human development and behaviour, social, economic and cultural factors, and the interaction between them, social workers help people manage life's most difficult challenges.

Their perspective is a vital component in the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care services.



Social Workers
Help starts here.

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Health Care Social Workers



Help Starts Here.

www.bcasw.org

Constructive Solutions

By understanding the social determinants of health, social workers effectively work to address practical, emotional and social barriers that prevent individuals from benefiting fully from the skilled care of other health care providers.

Effective Support

Social workers help clients/patients and their families to negotiate complex systems, build solid support networks and strengthen their ability to advocate for themselves. They assist people to increase their independence and thus rely less on formal services.

Informed Advocacy

Social workers are accomplished at finding creative solutions within existing policy and practice frameworks.

They are also ambassadors for change, committed to ensuring that patients and their families have access to the resources they need for optimum health.

Social Workers are Essential to the Health Care Team

- They are counsellors, facilitators, care coordinators, patient advocates, program managers, mediators, educators and community development consultants
- They are experts in family dynamics, trained to address complex family issues that may interfere with the client's progress and effective use of health care resources
- They work with individuals and families to address psycho-emotional and social issues that affect their well-being
- They support families through the toughest of times, dealing with illness, disability and loss
- They help people navigate service delivery systems and facilitate access to personal and community resources
- They play key roles in conflict resolution and crisis management, including critical incident defusing and debriefing
- They develop client-centred programs
- They understand, explain and advocate for relevant policy and legislation
- They facilitate communication that takes into account cultural, language and literacy issues
- They contribute a person-centred perspective to ethical decision making
- They take a lead role in facilitating a preventative and interprofessional approach to health
- Social workers are team builders



"I am expected to be all things to all people. With a social worker at my side, maybe I could be." acute care physician