

Special Olympics Strong Minds



The Healthy Athlete Clinical Director Role: Strong Minds

Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place -- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.

The Healthy Athletes program is dedicated to providing health services and education to Special Olympics athletes, and changing the way health systems interact with people with intellectual disabilities. Through free health screenings, training for healthcare professionals, and evaluation of the health status of people with intellectual disability, Healthy Athletes has become a powerful public health organization worldwide.

Clinical Directors are an important part of the Healthy Athletes Strong Minds team. Clinical Directors are responsible for working with their local Special Olympics Program and other volunteer health professionals in coordinating a Strong Minds event in their region.

The role of a Strong Minds Clinical Director includes, but is not limited to:

1. Determining event opportunities

Identifying and scheduling the best opportunity to provide Strong Minds events is a joint effort between the Clinical Director and their local Special Olympics Program. Clinical Directors will also determine which areas of Strong Minds to offer and how, based on the local needs and resources available.

2. Recruiting and Training Volunteer Health Professionals

Clinical Directors are the best people to identify and train health volunteers to work in the specific areas that will be offered in the Strong Minds venue, because they know their community and its local health care professionals. Potential volunteers may come from:

- Private Practitioners
- Universities/Colleges/Schools
- Health and Professional Associations
- Medical Facilities
- Government Medical Facilities (Military/VA/State/National/Local) and
- State or Local Public Health Agencies



3. Capacity Grant Application

Clinical Directors will work with their local Program to assure that supplies and equipment needed to deliver the core components of Strong Minds are included in the Healthy Athletes' Capacity Grant application. These grants assist Programs in purchasing interactive educational materials, athlete giveaways and incentives, volunteer recognition, signage and other supplies/equipment needed to conduct an impactful Strong Minds program.

4. Obtaining Equipment, Supplies and Athlete Giveaways

Needed supplies, equipment and athlete giveaways may be available to Clinical Directors through donations or loans obtained by networking with local sponsors and health services. Special Olympics headquarters also receives donations of goods and equipment that can be made available for events, if local sources are not available.

5. Setting Up and Supervising the Healthy Athletes Venue

On the day of the event, the Clinical Director is responsible for supervising the set up and delivery of screening and interactive education services by trained volunteers.

6. Collecting and Reporting Data

Clinical Directors use Healthy Athletes Software (HAS) to document screening data collected during the event. Data is used to determine need for health care provider referrals, and to assess the health status and needs of individual Special Olympics athletes. This data provides Healthy Athletes Programs worldwide with factual information to increase awareness and provide more services.

7. Program Evaluation

Evaluation gives Clinical Directors the opportunity to continuously improve and adapt their programs to the needs of the athletes.

Strong Minds Clinical Director Background and Requirements:

- Certificate and current licensure as a Mental Health professional (ie. Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Social Worker, Licensed Counselor, Behavior Analyst, Nurse Practitioner, Physician.)
- A minimum three-year commitment to ensure quality and continuity of the Strong Minds program;
- Attendance at a SOI sponsored Train-the-Trainer session where information and training about Special Olympics, Healthy Athletes, Strong Minds specific management and clinical requirements are provided. During training, Clinical Directors participate in a Strong Minds screening event. Expenses are covered by Special Olympics International.

