



Transform. Strengthen. Empower.

Job Title: Peer Specialist-Shelton, WA
Department: Behavioral Health
Reports To: Clinical Services Regional Director
FLSA Status: Exempt

POSITION SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the Clinical Services Regional Director, the Peer Specialist will provide support to reduce isolation, promote self-empowerment, enhance quality of life and serve the needs of consumers and their families through peer support, advocacy, education and outreach. Ensure services are provided in a holistic and culturally sensitive process, which promote the dignity, respect, safety and maximum optimal functioning of the individual. Provide a living example of hope for others with mental illnesses. Act as a role model of recovery for the consumer.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide peer support to consumers and their affected family members; facilitating support groups, focus groups, recovery training and events. Provide mentoring to consumers to assist them to navigate the mental health systems and help the consumer build natural and family support.
- Encourage consumers in developing coping skills and build and maintain community living skills as well as assess community resources.
- Support consumers to find and retain employment, education, volunteer work and meaningful activities that promote purpose and structure in the community.
- Work as part of a team alongside with the mental health therapists and clinical staff.
- Responsible for coordinating peer support services for our consumers that better meet their needs.
- Protect consumer confidentiality.
- Provide a welcoming, calm, courteous presence in the office and on the phones.
- Visit consumers in the home, school, community, hospital or as prearranged with the supervisor.
- Meet regularly with the Program Manager to assess and adjust program strategies.
- Help consumers to identify their strengths, recognize successes, and to build hope.
- Mentor consumers to build self-advocacy skills and explore networking through existing advisory groups.
- Mentor consumers to build natural supports

- Perform other duties as assigned.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge in the basic concepts of peer support including an understanding of the 10 fundamental Components of Recovery.
- Knowledge and understanding of bicultural issues and needs.
- Knowledge of community resources
- Knowledge of and sensitivity toward issues affecting mental health patients.
- Active listening skills and ability to respond appropriately.
- Ability to tell their own recovery and resiliency story in ways that are culturally relevant to the mental health consumer(s).
- Ability to communicate verbally and in writing in a clear and concise manner
- Ability to work collaboratively and through a team process with others
- Ability to maintain consumer confidentiality.
- Ability to set healthy boundaries.
- Ability to communicate and work with staff, members and volunteers from a variety of racial, cultural and economic backgrounds.
- Proficient in speaking, reading and writing both English and Spanish
- Washington State Driver's license and car insurance.
- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Personal experience with the mental health system provided in King County.
- Willingness to learn new skills as needed.
- Certified Peer Counselor who completed a specialized training provided or contracted by the Washington State Mental Health Division (MHD) Preferred.
- Registered with the Washington State Department of Health as a counselor.
- Experience with peer counseling, health education and/or public speaking preferred.
- English and Spanish Required

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Ability to read and comprehend instructions, short correspondence, memos, business correspondence and all other integrated behavioral health related documents. Ability to write clear, concise and accurate correspondence. Capable of establishing positive interpersonal relationships with a broad range of people. Effective oral and written communication skills.

OTHER SKILLS REQUIRED:

Ability to operate computer, printer, copy and fax machines, calculator, and other office equipment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by staff member to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of the job, the employee is regularly required to sit, stand, move up and down stairways, talk and hear, drive to and from community appointments. The employee must regularly lift and/or move up to ten pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to twenty pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, and peripheral vision.

MENTAL DEMANDS:

Ability to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where standardization may or may not exist. Ability to reason effectively and interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral or diagram form.

This position requires the individual to work with minimal supervision. Guidance is available as necessary, however, the individual is expected to be able to function autonomously and make individual decisions when appropriate. Position does require ability to interact with a variety of individuals and the ability to meet deadlines and time pressure based on the volume of work.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. The noise and/or level of distractions in the work environment are usually moderate.

I have read the job description and understand all of the duties and responsibilities of the position. I have also received a copy of the job description for my personal reference.

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