

Senior Behavioral Health Peer Specialist

Description:

Under general supervision and in a lead capacity, the incumbent will be responsible for the development and on-going provision of peer support services within Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.

The Senior Behavioral Health Peer Specialist is the lead level in the Behavioral Health Peer Specialist flexible classification series. Incumbents in the Behavioral Health Peer Specialist series are unique in that they have lived experience with behavioral health and/or recovery challenges themselves and/or they may be the caregivers/family members of individual(s) with behavioral health and recovery challenges. The Senior Behavioral Health Peer Specialist is expected to work independently, use good judgement and provide a high degree of para-professional behavioral health rehabilitative services.

Incumbents in this lead level class perform the highest level of assignments in the Behavioral Health Peer Specialist series. The Senior Behavioral Health Peer Specialist is distinguished from the series of Behavioral Health Peer Specialist classifications by the latter's responsibility for supervising the activities of subordinate staff.

Essential Functions:

- Functions as a resource person for other peer specialists and other staff members.
- Provides consultations and guidance to other peer specialists in the provision of peer services to consumers, families and caregivers.
- Trains peer specialists and other Behavioral health staff in the unique functions and roles of peers in the behavioral health system.
- Provides peer assistance and mentoring to promote consumers engagement in supportive networks, natural supports, and activities within and outside the behavioral health system.
- Serve as a mentor/role model demonstrating competency in recovery, effective coping skills and self-help strategies.
- Develops effective working relationships with agencies and organizations to advocate for consumer and family/caregiver empowerment.
- Outreaches to unengaged consumers, face-to-face or by phone
- Facilitates peer self-help/recovery groups (e.g. Wellness Recovery Action Plan) for consumers, family members, and caregivers.
- Attends, participates, and coordinates special events, conferences, workshops and trainings with the behavioral health system and in the community.

- Assists in organizing training activities and with providing educational materials on Behavioral Health Recovery for community groups, behavioral health consumers, family members, and staff.
- Transports consumers to and from medical and social service appointments.
- Recommends and makes referrals to programs for instruction on life skills, livelihood skills and workplace readiness skills necessary for successful reintegration into family life, the work force and the community.
- Performs basic typing and computer tasks; accesses, utilizes, and maintains electronic records and files, including an electronic medical record computer program.
- Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

Minimum Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or GED equivalent.
- Must be a current or past consumer of mental health or co-occurring behavioral health services or family member or caregiver of a current or former mental health or co-occurring behavioral health services consumer.
- Two (2) years of full time paid experience working in a social service or mental health setting in a capacity requiring interaction with the chronically mentally ill; **OR** completion of sixty (60) semester units or ninety (90) quarter units of course work from an accredited college or university, coursework must include 12 semester or 16 quarter units in the behavioral sciences; **OR** an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to obtain the knowledge and skill to successfully perform the essential duties of the job.
- Possession of a valid Class "C" Driver's license is required upon appointment.

Additional Requirements:

Within 120 days of hire incumbents must obtain current certification in the Peer Employment Training (PET) and the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training. Certification must be obtained within the time specified or employment will be terminated.

Dependent upon assignment, applicants may be required to pass an extensive background investigation and be fingerprinted. Disqualification for felony, misdemeanor, and traffic offenses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Incumbents may be required to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Knowledge of: the basic principles and practices of leadership and training; local community behavioral health services, community agencies and support groups; the needs and difficulties faced by ethnically diverse consumers, families/caregivers of consumers; the public and/or private agency services available for families, children, and adults with behavioral health and recovery challenges; and, methods to communicate effectively with consumers, families/caregiver, the community and the behavioral health treatment team.

Ability to: publicly acknowledge and share personal recovery experiences and provide support to other person-in-recovery; provide leadership and function as a lead to subordinate staff; understand the complexity of the behavioral health system and effectively work within the system; effectively represent and advocate for the consumer perspective within the community and behavioral health system; understand and articulate the cultural and social factors affecting behavioral health and recovery; effectively communicate the workings of the behavioral health system to consumers, families, and caregivers; communicate effectively in both oral and written manner; operate a vehicle in a safe manner; establish and maintain effective working relationships with consumers, their families, coworkers, County departments and other governmental agencies; provide services outside the office on a regular basis as required; utilize a personal computer and software; access, utilize and maintain electronic records and files.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.