

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

DEFINITION

Provide assistance and support for mental health consumers, their caregivers and/or family members, providing encouragement, support, information, and community connection to assist in their recovery; connect individuals to available community resources that overcome barriers to treatment participation and provide similar lived expertise and feedback from a mental health consumer perspective to the management, provider and treatment teams relative to the impact and effectiveness of provided services.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from a qualified Clinical Supervisor.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES – Duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provide outreach to clients to engage them in services and overcome barriers to participation in treatment.
- Assist peers in developing personal recovery and wellness goals.
- Offer support, encouragement and hope.
- Share personal experiences and model effective self-help strategies.
- Assist with access/linkage to community resources such as housing, transportation, education and employment.
- May be required to transport consumers to appointments and activities and or make home visits.
- Monitor program utilization.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of

- Understanding of approaches to support others in recovery and resiliency and demonstrates efforts at self-directed recovery.
- Community resources and how to connect individuals to those resources.

Ability to

- Understand and carry out directions and instructions.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Provide services to adult consumers.
- Speak, read, and write English.

- Prepare documentation consistent with department standards for quality and timeliness.
- Work hours conducive to reaching the identified population.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with consumers, coworkers, and other agencies.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Training

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade.

Experience

- Six (6) months of paid or unpaid experience as a peer advocate in a mental health system is preferred.
- Experience facilitating group and participating on committees is preferred.

Special Requirements

- Possession of a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid Oregon Driver's License by the time of appointment.
- State of Oregon Peer Support Specialist certification.
- A Peer Support Specialist must be:
 - A self-identified person currently or formerly receiving mental health services; **OR**
 - A self-identified person in recovery from a substance use disorder, who meets the abstinence requirements for recovering staff in alcohol and drug treatment programs; **OR**
 - A family member of an individual who is a current or former recipient of addictions or mental health services.
- Will be asked to discuss recovering experiences during interview process.