

Peer Specialist

The Peer Specialist is an active member of the Residential Housing Team and works closely with the program manager/supervisor. The Peer Specialist will function as a role model to peers; exhibiting competency in personal recovery and use of coping skills; serve as a consumer advocate, providing consumer information and peer supports for clients/tenants. The Peer Specialist performs a wide range of tasks to assist peers in regaining independence within the community, learning and practicing new skills, helping clients/tenants monitor their progress, modeling effective coping techniques and self-help strategies, supporting them in advocating for themselves to obtain effective services, supporting them in their treatment, contacting treatment providers to setup appointments, escorting them to appointments, and assisting clients/tenants in any area they require help.

Duties involve but not limited:

- Assist clients in working with their case manager and/or treatment team in determining steps they require to take in order to achieve these goals.
- Use peer counseling and support to help individuals identify, understand, and combat stigma and discrimination against mental illness and develop strategies to reduce self-imposed stigma
- Assist client/tenant in developing empowerment skills and combating stigma through self-advocacy; introduces and refers clients to self-help programs and advocacy organizations that promote recovery; assist clients in setting up, locating and joining existing support groups.
- Support client/tenant vocational choices and assist them in choosing a job that matches their strengths, overcoming job-related anxiety by reviewing job applications and providing interview tips.
- Assist client in building social skills in the community that will enhance job acquisition and tenure.
- Conduct field work which includes home visits with case management and escorting clients to appointments.
- Provide client/tenant with assistance on entitlement issues (i.e., reduced fare metro cards, food stamps, SSI, etc.) and obtaining needed documents.
- Provide services and support for client/tenant including problem-solving skills, skills modeling, advocacy, training on daily living skills and budgeting skill development.
- Conduct peer groups that support illness management, recovery groups and improved health outcomes for the clients.
- Connect client/tenant to local community resources and linkages which offer services to them that promote client independence and community integration.
- Attend regularly staff meetings and staff development training
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Education Requirement: High School Diploma required; Associates or Bachelor degree preferred; Peer Advocacy/Specialist Training Certificate preferred.

Job Qualifications:

- Minimum one year experience in the behavioral health services or in the mental health setting
- Good computer skills and/or ability to learn computer programs including Microsoft Office (i.e.: Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.) and client data database program SQL.
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Must have a valid driver's license in good standing.

Locations: Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens - For more information, contact Angela King-Brown (718) 876-2810

We offer an excellent benefit package and competitive salaries. For immediate consideration, please email your resume to: hcolon@svwsjmc.org or fax to (718) 273-5159.