

**Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite – Oswego County
(Direct Support Professional, Residence Counselor, Case Manager)
Position Summary:**

Short Term Crisis Respite is a three bed community based residential program that provides a therapeutic environment for adults experiencing an emotional crisis. The program provides the opportunity for individuals with a history of mental illness and willingness to share their story to help others by providing Peer Support Services. Peer Support Services include but are not limited to health and wellness coaching, relapse prevention planning, wellness activities, family support, and conflict resolution. The goal is to stabilize guests within seven days and prevent unnecessary ED visits and hospitalizations.

Essential Functions:

1. Teach guests to look at crisis differently and utilize wellness tools to prevent future crises or to decrease the intensity of personal crisis.
2. Work closely with Health Homes, hospitals and treatment providers to develop an integrated plan of care including mental health, physical health, substance abuse services, and community supports necessary for guests to succeed in the community.
3. Provide advocacy, supportive counseling and referral and linkage services for program guests as needed and as assigned by the Program Director.
4. Provide recovery oriented services incorporating the Need Adapted Treatment, Intentional Peer Support, and Motivational Interviewing.
5. Provide coverage for the program as reflected in staffing plan, including overnights as required.
6. Utilize de-escalation techniques.
7. Rotate warm line (on-call) responsibilities with other Peer Specialists providing peer support as needed.

Qualifications:

1. Have personal experience as a recipient of mental health services with a willingness to share personal and practical experience, knowledge, and first-hand insight to benefit program guests.
2. Certified by the Office of Mental Health (OMH) as a Certified Peer Specialist or Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASAS) as a Certified Peer Recovery Advocate or willingness to become certified within six months of hire.
3. Minimum of high school diploma or equivalent (GED).
4. Work experience in a behavioral health or related setting providing peer support is helpful.
5. A respect for and high level of comfort around people experiencing psychiatric crisis.
6. Ability to utilize critical thinking, problem-solving and de-escalation skills to assist with creating and maintaining an environment that promotes recovery.

Required Skills and Abilities:

1. Is sensitive to cultural differences and able to incorporate that understanding into service provision.

2. Regularly required to sit, stand, walk, bend, climb stairs and lift objects of up to 20lbs as required.
3. The ability to understand, support and operate from a strength-based recovery-oriented model; display professionalism in all settings; recognize the importance and benefits of relationship-building and collaborating with other service providers.
4. The ability to solve complex problems using creative solutions and act consistently in a manner that demonstrates dignity and respect for peers.

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