

NYC Health + Hospitals, Peer Counselor Lvl 1 OnTrackNY

The OnTrackNY Program is an innovative treatment program. The program serves adolescents and young adults who are within two years of experiencing the onset of non-affective psychosis. The Peer Specialist will work as part of an OnTrackNY team with program participants, family members, and all other team members. The Peer Specialist serves a unique role on the team. By drawing on his or her own lived experience of overcoming challenges with mental illness, the Peer Specialist can instill hope in clients and families. Walking alongside clients on their recovery journeys, the Peer Specialist is an ally, mentor, and advocate for young people as they contend with the difficulties and uncertainties of early psychosis.

The Peer Specialist uses his or her lived experience to contribute to treatment planning for each participant, keeping “youth-friendliness” at the forefront of the team’s philosophy, and facilitating the team’s development and maintenance of a culture of respect. The Peer Specialist can provide an essential framework for highlighting the potential that each client has for achieving a successful recovery trajectory.

In addition to attending team meetings, peer specialists often work directly with other team members to provide support and assistance to program participants. Under the supervision of the OnTrackNY Team Leader, they provide direct peer support services to program participants in any setting that would be helpful – at the OnTrackNY program site, in the community, or in the hospital. To learn more about OnTrackNY you may visit the website at ontrackny.org.

Please apply online at <https://employment.nychhc.org/welcome.html> and search for job number 39536 as well as send your resume to Angela Waterfall at WATERFAA@nychhc.org.

Duties and Responsibilities (in order of importance and/or frequency)

1. Enhances outreach, engagement and retention efforts through relationship with family and patients in the community.
2. Provide concrete and social supports to clients and families through case management helping to support participant’s efforts towards returning to school or work.
3. Help individuals understand psychosis and develop and practice skills to help with illness management (individually or in groups).
4. Model recovery and instill hope through selective self-disclosure about their lived experience with mental health problems, substance use, and other aspects of their lives.
5. Observes changes in behavior, affect and thinking of clients and reports relevant observations to clinical staff.
6. Correctly record observations and interactions in patient clinical record.
7. Maintains record of service contacts.
8. Participate in activities related to community awareness of recovery and stigma reduction
9. Above duties are “essential” as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
10. Other duties as assigned.

Minimum Education

High School or Generally Equivalent Degree.

Minimum Related Experience

- At least one year of general work experience.
- Two years of active participation in mental health self-help activities, peer support or peer advocacy programs, or participant run organizations or similar experiences or programs.

Minimum Certification Requirements

State certification as a Peer Specialist, OR ability to obtain provisional certification within 6 months and standard certification within 12 months of being hired.

Minimum Computer Skills

MS Word and Excel- Basic

General Skills

- Basic English and math literacy.
- Demonstrated interpersonal communications skills and the ability to empathize with, relate to and effectively work with participants of mental health services.
- Ability to appropriately self-disclose personal recovery process while maintaining appropriate boundaries for working with recipients of mental health services.
- Knowledge of normal and abnormal functioning levels.
- Ability to use public transportation.
- Ability to organize group activities.

Contact Person

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