



Employment Opportunity

Peer Specialist February 2019

Part-Time or Full-Time

Rainbow Heights Club is a non-profit psychosocial support and advocacy program serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults living with major mental illness. We are currently seeking applicants for part-time and full-time Peer Specialist positions. Rainbow Heights Club is located in downtown Brooklyn. Please visit our website - www.rainbowheights.org - for more information about our services and programs.

Rainbow Heights Club currently serves over 780 members, and has a staff of 15. Our clients are lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender adult individuals who are living with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, mental retardation, developmental disability, and substance and alcohol use issues. Our work is extremely effective: 95% of the people who come to Rainbow Heights Club remain free of psychiatric hospitalization each year. We are seeking outstanding, motivated, knowledgeable, energetic, charismatic, and experienced people to help us expand our clinical team.

Position Description:

The successful candidates will be self-starters who have demonstrated the ability to intervene in crises, facilitate support, activity, and psycho education groups, provide 1:1 support interventions as needed, and coordinate and conduct screening and intake interviews. They will be able to use their own lived experience in recovery to teach and model symptom management and assist consumers in the development of skills for empowerment and successful community living. Bi/multi lingual candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

The position will also conduct screenings, intakes and orientation of new members. Responsibilities include providing services as well as documenting them in AWARDS, an Electronic Health Records database. Good oral and written communication skills are required. Duties also include providing and documenting HARP/HCBS services.

The following are requirements for the position.

- Certification from a recognized peer specialist training program.
- Completion of requirements to submit application for provisional certification as a peer specialist.
- High School Diploma or GED.
- Prior experience working with adults living with major mental illness including significant prior experience facilitating support groups, providing 1:1 support, and connection to care.
- Ability to facilitate support, activity, and discussion groups, and WRAP groups; one on one interventions; and community meetings and forums
- A professional attitude while maintaining a flexible, reliable, patient, organized, trustworthy, supportive, and kind mindset. You must be competent to work with people from many different racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
- A desire to work in a low-threshold, milieu-based program setting and willingness to be directly involved in food preparation and planning as part of the club's daily meal program and other activities, as needed.
- Willingness to learn computer skills (Word, Publisher, etc).
- Be comfortable with, knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Regardless of your sexual orientation or gender identity, you must be proud of and comfortable with it, and must be ready, willing, and able to discuss these topics with Rainbow Heights Club consumers.
- Be comfortable with, knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues related to mental health, including severe and persistent mental illness, as well as substance use and addictions. Be familiar with and able to incorporate harm reduction approaches in your work. Be comfortable with, knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues related to sexual health, behaviors, and practices. Former experience with HIV prevention is desirable.
- Evening and some weekend availability will be a requirement of the position.
- Other tasks as assigned.

Rainbow Heights Club is a project of Heights Hill Mental Health Service South Beach Psychiatric Center Community Advisory Board, Inc., which is an equal opportunity employer. We actively encourage applications from LGBTQ+ people, people living with disabilities, and people from marginalized groups. Please email your application with cover letter to Jobs@rainbowheights.org

No phone calls please.