

Mental Health American of Dutchess County, Inc.
Position Description

Position Title: HCBS PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST Department: HOME AND
COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Report To: HCBS PROGRAM MANAGER Location: 253 MANSION ST

Hours per Week: PT/ FT Employment Status: EXEMPT

DUTIES:

HCBS PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST:

There are 6 categories of peer-support components. They include:

1. Advocacy:

- Assistance seeking and obtaining benefits and entitlements, food, shelter, permanent housing
- Assisting recipients in participating in shared decision making (e.g. MyPSYCKES)
- Linkage to and systems navigation within behavioral health and allied human services systems to access appropriate care (e.g. Peer Bridgers)
- Benefits advisement and planning
- Development of psychiatric advance directives (PAD)
- Assistance advocating for self-directed services

2. Outreach and Engagement:

- Companionship and modeling of recovery lifestyle, including participation in recovery activities that might be beyond the scope of treatment providers (e.g., eating together at a restaurant, attending or participating in a sporting event, attending a social event such as a concert or recovery celebration event)
- Raising the awareness of existing services, pathways to recovery and helping a person to remove barriers that exist for access to them

Interim visits with individuals after discharge from Hospital Emergency Rooms, Detox Units or Inpatient Psychiatric Units to facilitate community tenure and increased readiness while waiting for the first post-discharge visit with a community-based mental health provider, treatment provider or appropriate system of care

3. Self-help tools:

- Assist selecting and utilizing self-directed recovery tools such as Relapse Prevention Planning
- Assist selecting and utilizing the things that bring a sense of passion, purpose and meaning into his/her life and coaching the person as they identify barriers to engaging in these activities
- Assist individuals to help connect to natural supports that enhance the quality and security of life
- Connecting individuals to "warm lines"
- Connections to self-help groups in the community

4. Recovery Supports:

- Recovery education and coaching for individuals and their family members
- One to one peer support

- Person centered goal planning that incorporates life areas such as community connectedness, physical wellness, spirituality, employment, self-help
- Assisting with skills development that guides people towards a more independent life

5. Transitional Supports:

- Bridging from Jail or prison to an individual's home (note: that peer supports while in Jail are not Medicaid reimbursable)
- Bridging from institutions to an individual's home (note: that peer supports while in an institution are not Medicaid reimbursable)
- Bridging from general hospitals to an individual's home
- Bridging from an individual's home to the community

6. Pre-crisis and Crisis Supports:

- Providing companionship when an individuals in an emergency room or crisis unit or preparing to be admitted to detox, residential or other service to deal with crisis
- Providing peer support in the individual's home or in the community to support them before (or in) a crisis or relapse
- Developing crisis diversion plans or relapse prevention plans

QUALIFICATIONS:

HS Diploma or equivalent and 1-3 years' experience working with individuals with SUD disorders and/or SMI or a Bachelor's Degree.

Peer support providers must have a certification as of the following:
 OMH established Certified Peer Specialist OASAS Certified Peer Advocate
 Provisional Certification acceptable

Please send letter of interest and resume to:

Samantha Ruthkosky, HCBS Coordinator sholz@mhadutchess.org

And

Kathy William, Human Resources kwilliams@mhadutchess.org