



## **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Substance Use and Mental Health Peer Conference (SUMH)**

**2019 Theme**

***Peer Professional Staff: Bringing Value, Strengthening Services***

**WHEN:**      Friday, December 6, 2019  
10:00 AM (load in 8:30/9:00 AM)

**WHERE:**     Hunter College, Silberman School of Social Work  
2180 Third Ave (at 119<sup>th</sup> Street)  
New York, NY 10035

## INVITATION LETTER

After the success of the 2018 SUMHPS Conference and Career Fair, **NYC Peer Workforce Coalition** is proud to invite employers to participate in this year's Career Fair! **Last year, participating organizations hired least six (6) high quality peers from applicant attendees!** The 2019 Career Fair promises to be even better.

Employers will again have the opportunity to engage trained (from programs like Howie the Harp), and certified (OASAS/CRPA as well as APS/NYPSCB) job seekers who are ready to work. Entry-level and mid-career/supervisory prospects will attend this event.

Space is limited so we are requesting only employers looking to fill immediate openings and/or hiring within the next two months (January or February 2020) to participate.

Based on feedback we received last year, there will again be an opportunity to conduct on-the-spot, one-on-one interviews in 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms.

### **How to participate (remember, spaces fill quickly)**

**Fill out the application and return via email or fax to:**

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Office of Consumer Affairs  
42-09 28<sup>th</sup> Street, CN 43  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
Attn: WillieFlora Gaines,  
E-mail: [wgaines@health.nyc.gov](mailto:wgaines@health.nyc.gov)  
Fax: (347) 396-7165, 7166

**All Career Fair applications must be e-mailed, faxed or postmarked by no later than close of business on **Friday, November 22, 2019.****

## **Conference Description**

Currently there is national attention on mental health and substance use due to the opioid crisis, and the increase in suicide rates across the United States which put these topics at the forefront of public attention. Now is the time to emphasize evidenced based practices that work. As a result, Peer professional staff are now seen as emerging resources in providing supportive services. The expansion of the use of peer professionals in governmental and private-sector settings including, but not limited to, public and private hospitals, ambulatory care clinics, non-profit, housing, and managed care organizations (MCO) is increasing. Additionally, there is a need for building peer structure in the profession. Therefore, peer professional staff are seeking and steadily being hired into supervisory and managerial roles, bringing their personal lived experience to bear in helping to enhance the provision of person-centered, trauma informed, and ethical practice.

There are other conversations also creating a need for more Peer professional staff. In the new world of value-based payments, Certified Peer professionals can offer revenue-enhancing, community-based solutions that greatly reduce the need for more expensive and restrictive services, such as hospitalization. There is a move toward better health, better care and lower cost. As a byproduct, peer professionals have more targeted opportunities to share their expertise in areas such as: harm reduction, criminal justice, youth, family services and veteran services. In NYS OASAS as of 2020 all providers will be required to have peers on staff.

This one-day conference will bring all these current developments to be discussed. Together participants, peer professional staff and other providers in the substance use disorder and mental health communities will address cutting edge advancements in the market of employment, professional development, and skill-building, as well as provide opportunities for career coaching and mentoring.

## APPLICATION

**Organization (including address):**

**Supervisor (name and contact information):**

**Contact person responsible day of Career Fair:**

**Phone:**

Open Positions: (additional sheets can be attached)

Our organization would like to conduct on-the-spot interviews of candidates at the Career Fair and will require space in interview rooms \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

NOTE: Each Career Fair organization will be allowed a table and two (2) chairs. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each organization are included with registration. Registration also includes lunch for two (2) employer representatives. There are water fountains onsite, and Career Fair participants should consider bringing their own water.

The venue does not provide tablecloths for Career Fair tables, so participants should provide their own.

Suggestions of additional items to bring to the SUMH Career Fair (not required)

- Fliers + Business Cards + signage
- Printed job descriptions
- Supplies like pens, clip boards, tape, file folders, notepads, blank job application forms, sign-in sheets for applicants (completely optional) a tabletop mounted soundproof tri-fold partition

Questions about this event should be directed to WillieFlora Gaines, Office of Consumer Affairs, DOHMH (347) 396-7194, [wgaines@health.ny.gov](mailto:wgaines@health.ny.gov).

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