



Job Title: ACT Substance Abuse Specialist

Job Group: X

Location: ACT Aspire Team- 1050 Niagara, Buffalo, NY

Reports to: Program Director

SUMMARY:

The ACT SUBSTANCE ABUSE Specialist provides direct, intensive screening and treatment to mentally ill chemical abusing individuals accepted into the ACT Program. The Substance Abuse Specialist provides both one-to-one and group modality treatment as well as crisis intervention. The Substance Abuse Specialist develops and implements treatment plans providing direct clinical services in a variety of modalities, with focus on chemical dependency intervention, and participates in crisis intervention strategies.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS:

- Responsible for the management of fifteen client charts. Case Management duties.
- Consults with the Program Director/Team Leader and psychiatrist regarding response to treatment interventions.
- Provides intensive mental health and chemical dependency interventions to consumers according to the ACT philosophy of in-the-field treatment. Develops initial and ongoing treatment plans.
- Conducts comprehensive chemical dependency, MSE, and ADL assessments.
- Provides program consultation and education to community members.
- Routinely conducts lethality and mental status assessments.
- Consults with the Program Director/Team Leader and psychiatrist regarding response to the treatment interventions.
- Acts as a liaison in situations where a brokered, specialty service may be required.
- Documents consumer progress as per established guidelines.
- Flexible service provision.
- Trains staff in chemical dependency etiology and treatment interventions.
- Provides direct clinical intervention both on-site and within a consumer's natural environment.
- Initiates and facilitates Substance Abuse groups.
- Promotes the mission of the team and provides community education to potential referral sources.
- Participates in 24-hour, on call rotation.
- Provides chemical dependency-related supportive services.
- Acts as a coordinator in the overall service delivery system.
- Interfaces with the criminal justice system and mental health court as a consumer advocate.
- Routinely conducts lethality and mental status assessments.
- Performs toxicology screenings at a determined frequency.
- Develops a component of the treatment plan specific to an abstinence plan and a relapse-prevention plan.
- Provides support and motivation in relapse prevention. Provides access to substance abuse support groups.
- Provides substance abuse education and training to team members, family members and significant others.
- Acts as a resource for chemical dependency information for other members of the team.
- Utilizes a harm reduction model in treatment.
- Participates in daily Morning Meetings. Demonstrates good oral and writing skills.
- Other tasks as assigned by the ACT Program Director/Team Leader.

Special Skills Required:

Able to set flexible therapeutic boundaries and parameters. Has working knowledge of "street drugs," (i.e. their value, use, and currency utilization). Demonstrates "street smarts". Experienced in working with chemically dependent people. Has a working knowledge of the interactions between psychiatric medications, psychiatric symptom exacerbation, and substance abuse and its impact on clients. Has a working knowledge of community resources. Able to network and build relationships with the community at large. Able to develop therapeutic alliances with police officers, court systems, probation and parole. Good overall knowledge of the criminal justice system. Good analytical skills. Skilled in working therapeutically with Antisocial Personality disordered individuals. Good group therapy skills. Able to meet the client "where he or she is at," in the recovery continuum. Knowledge of and rapport with various self-help groups and organizations. Able to recognize and manage client crises. Demonstrates creativity in service delivery and planning.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Possesses a Master's degree in Social Work, Psychology, Rehabilitation Counseling. Professional (QHP) certification meeting NYS Office of Mental Health definition for professional staff and 1 year relevant experience.

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