



Job Title: Peer Advocate

Job Group: VI

Location: Abbott Corners - 3176 Abbott Rd, Orchard Park, NY

Reports to: Program Director

SUMMARY:

The Peer Advocate operates within a team of professionals who deliver services to the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic consumers. The Peer Advocate delivers peer support services with a rehabilitation and recovery focus, with a primary goal of connecting individuals to community based recovery supports consistent with the treatment/recovery plan. This position requires a thorough understanding of the process and possibility of robust recovery for people diagnosed with mental health and/or substance use disorders. People with personal experience as a recipient of mental health and/or substance use treatment or of personal recovery are encouraged to apply. Honesty, respect for diversity, high personal standards, professional language and behaviors reflecting such values are required.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist individual's mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment to participate in diverse, person-centered, self-directed services and meaningful activities that promote empowerment and robust recovery.
- Provide direct contact, outreach, mentoring, systems navigation, community oversight and crisis support as needed to individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders diagnoses.
- Assist individuals with finding educational opportunities, employment, social activities and home health integration of services.
- Advocate for each person by understanding who the person is now, his/her life experiences, and his/her goals for the future.
- Work with participants toward their recovery goals, both individually and in group settings in various locations/environments.
- Must be cognizant of all relevant employment, educational, housing, entitlement and social supports in the community and proactively facilitate connection to these services with participants as needed.
- Assist with other duties as specified by the Program Director.
- Will be available to transport consumers to appointments and/or community resources when needed

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS:

Working knowledge of community resources, including social clubs, and peer support activities. Ability to identify potential crisis situations and convey this information to a supervisor in a timely and appropriate manner. Must be a current or former recipient of mental health and/or substance use disorder services. Must possess the ability to establish supportive trusting relationships with persons with mental illness and substance use disorders, and maintain respect for client rights and personal preferences in treatment. Excellent organizational, problem-solving, and time management skills.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Associate's Degree in Human Services plus two years of advocacy experience in a human service agency or health care facility OR High School diploma or equivalency and four years' experience in a human service agency or health care facility.

Must be a "peer" and have a working knowledge of the mental health system and recovery process. Must have personal "lived" experience as a former or current user of substance use treatment services or have personal substance use recovery experience and be comfortable with self-disclosure as needed. OMH Certified Peer Specialist or OASAS Certified Peer Advocate or provisional certification require. Clean NYS Driver's license is required

Bilingual English/Spanish, Arabic, or other language strongly preferred.

To apply, please use the following link:

<https://home.eease.adp.com/recruit/?id=13245581>

If link does not connect, please copy and paste address in your web browser