



**Job Title:** Peer Advocate

**Job Group:** VI

**Location:** Mobile Unit (Niagara County)

**Reports to:** Program Director

**SUMMARY OF DUTIES:**

The Peer Advocate operates within a team of professionals who deliver services to consumers of Behavioral Health Services. The Peer Advocate delivers peer support services with rehabilitation and recovery focus, with a primary goal of connecting individuals to community based recovery supports consistent with the treatment/recovery plan. 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 behavior 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 activities that promote empowerment & 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
- Work towards participant's recovery goals, individually and in groups 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.
- Will be available to transport consumers to appointments and/or community resources when needed
- Engage individuals to inform about the changes happening to Medicaid.
- Works in collaboration with other program staff & partners to identify agencies to conduct outreach
- Travels to numerous locations either to engage members or to support the recovery of individuals we work with; continues with individuals after discharge to identify and engage with a range of community-based supports;
- Completes detailed written record of activities;
- Attends trainings as required and assigned by supervisor, and
- Maintains personal wellness. Performs all other duties as required and assigned by supervisor.

**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 HS diploma or equivalency and 4yrs., 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