

North Country Community Mental Health

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST - Part time, grant funded up to 20 hours per week, based in Rapid City: This position will work in the Community Support Services program providing mentoring, guidance, community living supports and housing assistance to individuals recovering from mental illness. Applicants must be a current or past consumer of mental health services with the equivalent of a high school education and good driving record and have the ability to become certified as a Peer Support Specialist with the State of Michigan.

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Provides housing services and assistance in the areas of:
 - Locating and finding decent and affordable housing.
 - Obtaining and effectively utilizing financial assistance to secure permanent housing.
 - Managing an individual budget.
 - Developing and maintaining independent living skills such as food shopping, meal preparation, housekeeping, laundry, etc.
2. Utilizing specific Peer Support Specialist training:
 - Assists consumers in developing empowerment skills through self-advocacy and the reduction of stigma.
 - Shares personal experience of their recovery with consumers when that knowledge will enhance a member's recovery. Advocates on behalf of members, displays respect and concern for member welfare. Role model the value of recovery initiatives.
 - Demonstrates effective coping techniques and self- help strategies.
 - Provides and advocates for effective recovery-based services through the person-centered planning process.
 - Informs consumers about community and natural supports, and how to utilize these in the recovery process.
3. Assists non-consumer staff in identifying program characteristics that are conducive to recovery; lends their unique insight into mental illness and what assists recovery.
4. Transports consumers in agency vehicles to and from activities, appointments, etc., in accordance with the support plan, as indicated in person-centered housing services needs.
5. Performs related work as assigned by Supervisor

Qualifications:

Minimum of a high school education or GED. Two years of experience successfully maintaining independent housing for self. Must have proficient reading, writing, and math skills to provide support to peers in the areas of money management, budgeting, and to document services. Must be or have been a prior consumer of mental health services, with knowledge of mental illness and the ability to cope with associated symptoms.

Individuals providing Peer Support Services must be able to demonstrate their experience in the types of guidance, support, and mentoring activities they will provide. Individuals providing these services should be comfortable in being generally recognized as mental health consumers, past or present, and accepted as such by peers. Successfully complete specialized training and/or certification.

Other Related Requirements:

- Adherence to the Board's personnel policies, procedures, and standards.
- Adherence and commitment to the principles of community mental health services, and the mission and purpose of North Country Community Mental Health.
- Report any situation that is a potential violation of the False Claims Act or any otherwise reportable occurrence as defined in the Regulatory Compliance Plan.
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to all consumer information.
- Must be current in Adult CPR and First Aid.
- Must be current in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (CPI).
- Maintain a positive attitude with work assignments and in relationships with co-workers.
- Meet physical requirements for position, which may include ability to assist in lifting consumers, packages, and equipment.
- Ability to complete required training for the position.
- Promote good morale within the work environment.
- Have own phone or reliable access to messages.
- Maintain satisfactory work performance.
- Ability to communicate clearly, verbally and in writing.
- Possess a valid Michigan driver's license and have a satisfactory driving record.

Hourly wage starts at \$10.61. Please send cover letter and resume to: Human Resources, North Country Community Mental Health, One MacDonald Drive, Suite A, Petoskey, MI 49770, Fax: (231) 347-1241, e-mail: hr@norcocmh.org. EOE