

Job Announcement

Position:	Peer Specialist / Wellness Advocate
Program:	IHOT North Program
Classification:	Part Time (24 hours per week), Non-Exempt
Salary:	Commensurate with Experience

Background and Summary:

UPAC partners with Mental Health Systems, Inc. and NAMI San Diego for the IHOT North (In Home Outreach Teams) Program, funded by the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services, with funding from MHSA Innovations dollars. This program will provide in home and community support to family members and clients most severely impacted by serious mental illness. Program provides In-Home Outreach Team services to adults living with mental illness who are reluctant to seek treatment and their families/caregivers. The goal is to assist individuals living with psychiatric and co-occurring disorders to function, socialize, and work in environments of their choice with the least restrictive environment possible and through fostering client self-determination.

This work schedule generally are during the work week however may include weekends and/or evenings. The office is in San Marcos area. Most services will be provided in clients' homes and/or in the community. Applicants must be willing to travel across North Central, North Inland and North Coastal Regions of San Diego County (e.g. Linda Vista, Mira Mesa, Poway, Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Oceanside, Carlsbad).

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Under the direction of the Family Specialist Lead, the Peer Specialist utilizes his or her experiences as a recipient of mental health services to enhance recovery efforts of clients within the IHOT program.
- He/she serves as a member of a multidisciplinary team and shares practical and personal experience, knowledge and insight related to illness management, life skills, and the lifelong process of recovery.
- The Peer Specialist actively promotes greater understanding of clients' points of view and preferences. He or she maximizes client choice while also advocating on behalf of clients when appropriate.
- The Peer Specialist fulfills duties related to supportive counseling, rehabilitation, and collateral interactions with natural supports.
- Demonstrated ability to relate to the needs and concerns of peers seeking mental health services
- Provide messages of hope and recovery
- Provide welcome and orientation to participants
- Provide support, information and access to needed resources and appropriate services
- Offer education on outpatient mental health treatment, especially if this is first psychiatric hospitalization or clinic visit; accompany client on first visit to outpatient clinic if needed
- Ensure that participant has transportation resources to attend first meeting at outpatient clinic
- Address the needs and concerns of participant with support and access to needed resources and appropriate services
- Document all participant interactions correctly on forms and/or into computer tracking system accurately and on a timely basis, according to procedure.

- Must have ability to use training and remain calm during any potential emergencies or crises
- Responsibilities may include assisting client such as driving to court appointments, assisting with benefits applications, acquiring ID, assisting with access to social service needs, and escorting clients to medical appointments
- Linking participants with programs to assist with the activities of daily living
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- High School diploma, GED or equivalent
- Must have lived experience as an individual with previous (or current) mental health challenges, and must be grounded in one's recovery process
- Experience with case management and linkage to community resources
- Have an understanding of San Diego County's mental health services
- Understanding of social services available throughout San Diego
- Ability to maintain strict confidentiality with regard to client information and other sensitive or proprietary information
- Ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken English, with ability to communicate mental health principles to clients, families and providers
- Ability to work independently and also collaborate as a member of an interdisciplinary team
- Will not be debarred or excluded from participation in Federal programs by the General Services Administration and/or the Department of Health and Human Services of the Inspector General
- Must have own transportation, a valid California Driver's license and comprehensive automobile insurance
- Must comply with UPAC Code of Conduct
- Must comply with False Claims Act requirements

Additional preferred qualifications which are a plus:

- Previous experience working in mental health program or facility
- Bilingual in Asian language or Spanish preferred
- Flexible hours, including evenings and weekends
- Trained in Peer Employment Training

Mail, Fax or Email Resume to:

**UPAC – Attn: HR
1031 25th Ave
San Diego, CA 92102**

Fax: 619-232-4113

**E-Mail: upacjobs@upacsd.com
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