

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT



Position: Peer Specialist / Wellness Advocate
Program: IHOT North Program
Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, Temporary
Salary: \$12-\$16 per hour; Commensurate with experience

Summary and Range of Authority:

UPAC partners with Mental Health Systems, Inc. and NAMI San Diego for the IHOT (In-Home Outreach Teams) North Program. 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. Under the direction of the Lead Wellness Advocate, Peer Specialist utilizes their experiences as a recipient of mental health services to enhance recovery efforts of clients within the IHOT program.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Serve 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.
- Actively promote greater understanding of clients' points of view and preferences.
- Maximize client choice while also advocating on behalf of clients when appropriate.
- Fulfill duties related to supportive counseling, rehabilitation, and collateral interactions with natural supports.
- Demonstrate 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.
- Link participants with programs to assist with the activities of daily living.
- Available to work evenings and weekends.
- Other duties as assigned.

Required Education, Certifications/License and Language/Culture Skills:

- High School diploma, GED or equivalent.

Minimum Experience and Qualifications Required:

- Must have lived experience of recovery as a recipient of mental health services.
- If recovering, must be clean and sober and stable in the recovery process for at least 1 year.
- Experience with case management and linkage to community resources.
- Knowledgeable of San Diego County's mental health services.
- Understanding of social services available throughout San Diego.
- Ability to maintain strict confidentiality regarding 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 collaborate as a member of an interdisciplinary team.
- Must demonstrate intermediate level of computer literacy and experience using office productivity software i.e. Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Internet browsers, and Outlook.
- Must pass background check (Live Scan Fingerprint).
- Must be able to drive for business purposes to other program locations in San Diego County.
- Must have a valid California driver's license and comprehensive automobile insurance coverage, as required by law.
- 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.

Additional Preferred Education or Qualifications:

- Previous experience working in mental health program or facility.
- Bilingual in Asian language or Spanish preferred.
- Trained in Peer Employment Training.

Physical Demands and Work Environment:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Spends approximately 70% of work time sitting and meeting with others or working at a desk and/or computer. Spends approximately 30% of work time standing or walking within the work area or outside the office at meetings and events, also bends, twists, stoops and reaches. Ability to communicate in writing and verbally. Regularly required to sit and talk or hear. Frequently is required to use hands to touch, handle or feel and reach with hands and arms. Occasionally lifts and/or moves up to 25 pounds. Working conditions are normal for an office environment and event venues. The noise level is usually moderate.

Mail, Fax or Email Resume to:

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