



W·I·S·E

Workforce Integration Support and Education

a program of NorCal MHA

1908 O Street

Sacramento, CA 95811

P. 916.366.4600 | F. 916.855.5448

www.wiseup.work | wise@wiseup.work

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: PEER PARTNER SPECIALIST

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

DEADLINE TO APPLY: DECEMBER 19, 2014

Mental Health America of Northern California (NorCal MHA) is a 501(c)(3) public benefit organization dedicated to improving the lives of residents in the diverse communities of Northern California through advocacy, education, research, and culturally relevant peer support services. In all its programs, NorCal MHA works with individuals and families with mental health challenges to promote wellness and recovery, prevention, and improved access to services and supports.

NorCal MHA has an immediate opening for a full-time (37.5 hours per week) Peer Partner Specialist. This position is employed by NorCal MHA, but is co-located within the offices of Sacramento County's Behavioral Health Services. Under the supervision of NorCal MHA's Consumer Advocate Liaison, the Peer Partner Specialist provides culturally competent recovery and support services for public mental health clients. This position is eligible for employee health benefits and paid time off. **Applicants must have personal lived experience as a current or former client receiving mental health services, preferably through the public mental health system in any California county, and must speak Spanish fluently.**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants who do not possess these minimum qualifications will not be interviewed:

- Current or previous experience as a client receiving mental health services
- The ability to speak Spanish fluently
- The ability to consistently work 37.5 hours per week during standard business hours
- Reliable personal transportation readily accessible throughout the workday
- A valid class "C" California driver license
- An auto insurance policy meeting the minimum legal standards in California
- The ability to pass a California DOJ criminal background screening
- The ability to work evenings and weekends, on occasion, as program needs dictate
- Any combination of education, training, and experience necessary to perform the Job Duties for this position, and to acquire the Knowledge and Abilities described herein

Please carefully review the application instructions listed at the end of this job announcement.

Applicants who do not follow these instructions will not be considered for this position.

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JOB DUTIES

Core Services

- Provides individual peer support, information and referrals, mentoring, and advocacy skills to clients receiving services from Sacramento County's Behavioral Health Department
- Meets with clients and their family members or support persons while client is at the Mental Health Treatment Center (MHTC) or at Adult Psychiatric Support Services (APSS)
- Assesses the unique challenges faced by each client; assists clients in successfully completing their recovery programs
- Provides mentoring and/or coaching to clients by helping clients set recovery goals, develops individual Wellness and Recovery Action Plans ("WRAP"), solves problems directly related to recovery, and provides encouragement, motivation and support to clients seeking to establish or strengthen their recovery
- Facilitates clients' access to benefits, entitlements, and resources including SSI and/or Medi-Cal services, safe housing, job readiness training and/or job placement services, and community-based supports to assist clients with meeting individual recovery needs
- Helps clients navigate the formal mental health treatment system and identify and articulate what they need from services and providers; teaches clients to advocate for their own needs, such as access to care and appropriate discharge planning
- Assists clients in building or maintaining personal support networks; helps clients in developing social skills needed to maintain positive interpersonal relationships
- Encourages clients to identify and engage in meaningful leisure activities, social activities, and/or hobbies that support their recovery goals and reflect their unique cultural identities
- Provides recovery-oriented group activities and/or educational groups for clients to share personal stories and engage in collective problem-solving with peers and expand personal skill sets
- Ensures confidentiality is maintained at all times in accordance with Federal, State, County, and agency standards

Advocacy, Outreach, and Engagement

- Works with Sacramento County Behavioral Health staff to carry out varied and important duties within the areas of peer support and self-help services through advocacy, outreach, and engagement
- Uses personal experience to establish credibility, maximize client voice and choice in services, and gives their perspective in the operation and development of program services
- Elevates the role of clients and makes recommendations regarding mental health policy and practices
- Provides outreach services to unserved and underserved individuals and families
- Plans and provides feedback related to support groups, workshops, conferences and other coordinated efforts to improve mental health services

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- Reviews existing and proposed client programs/services and participates in the development of new programs and resources

Other Responsibilities

- Documents client contacts, maintains client files, monitors client progress, records information, generates reports
- Conducts client satisfaction surveys
- Performs data collection activities and time studies
- Conducts meetings, support groups, trainings, and workshops
- Organizes, coordinates, and participates in public presentations and other public outreach activities
- Attends meetings with provider agencies and county mental health staff
- Performs all other duties as assigned

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

The ideal candidate will possess **KNOWLEDGE** of:

- The basic needs and problems of adult mental health clients, including those from underserved and ethnic communities
- The complex public and/or private agency services available for individuals mental health needs, including community resources and culture-specific supports
- Mental health recovery concepts, including self-help and peer support principles
- Key elements, values, and goals of the Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63)
- Current legislation, laws, and issues impacting mental health services in California

Successful candidates will have the **ABILITY** to:

- Build coalitions among groups with differing needs and objectives
- Work cooperatively and effectively with individuals from different educational, economic, cultural, and racial backgrounds
- Engage in teamwork and work in a collaborative setting
- Effectively advocate for the interests and needs of others
- Demonstrate equality in relationships with clients and the capacity for self-awareness
- Use language that is non-judgmental and non-clinical
- Display professionalism in appearance, language, and conduct
- Demonstrate culturally-sensitive and appropriate interaction
- Apply self-help and support principles and techniques to problems and issues
- Speak in public, facilitate meetings, and make group presentations
- Maintain a strong work ethic; remain dependable, flexible, and able to adapt to daily changes and challenges
- Provide a consistent source of encouragement and hope to clients
- Model effective coping techniques and communication skills

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PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

This position requires employees to:

- Consistently work 37.5 hours each week
- Frequently drive to/from various locations within Sacramento County
- Perform moderate typing and engage in daily computer use
- Sit for the majority of the day
- Write notes or otherwise record important information
- Speak in public
- Sometimes work in the evenings or on weekends to attend appointments, events, meetings, and/or trainings
- Occasionally travel to conferences/trainings held in distant locations

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Employment at NorCal MHA is strictly at-will. This is a full-time 37.5-hour per week position. Pay ranges from \$XX.00 - \$XX.00 per hour, depending on experience. This position is eligible for employee benefits, including: up to X weeks of annual paid time off; paid employee medical, dental, and vision insurance; and access to a 403(b) retirement plan. **Desired start date is January 5, 2015.**

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

To apply for this position, submit your resume with a separate cover letter. Your cover letter **MUST**: (1) explain why you are interested in this position; (2) demonstrate how you meet the minimum qualifications for this position; and (3) discuss your relevant experience and ability to perform the job duties of this position.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS DECEMBER 19, 2014. MUST START BY JANUARY 5, 2015.

EMAIL OR FAX YOUR RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO:

EMAIL: [EMAIL ADDRESS]

FACSIMILE: (916) 855-5448, ATTN: [SCREENER/HIRING MANAGER]

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