

GREATER ESSEX COUNSELING SERVICES

23 Branford Place, 2nd Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102 Tele. 973-623-7878

4522 Kennedy Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Union City, New Jersey 07087 Tele. 862-329-7878

Job Description

Peer Recovery Specialist

Reports To: Management Team

Job Summary:

The Peer Recovery Specialist will work closely with individuals struggling with substance use disorders or mental health challenges. You will play a crucial role in providing empathetic and non-judgmental support, guidance, and encouragement. You will draw upon your own lived experience of recovery to establish a strong connection with patients, helping them navigate the challenges they face and empowering them to achieve and maintain sobriety. Your unique perspective will be an invaluable asset in fostering hope, reducing stigma, and promoting long-term recovery.

Responsibilities:

1. Facility Support:

- Welcome new patients to the facility and provide patient orientation.
- Facilitate peer support groups.
- Conduct outreach activities including representing the facility in the community while providing support by way of daily meetings and social events.
- Assist Management in developing an online peer support directory.
- Maintain compliance with organizational and regulatory policies and procedures.
- Work in a consistently professional manner at all times, which includes, but is not limited to, treating all patients, staff, guests, and volunteers with dignity and respect.
- Perform other duties as requested.

2. Peer Support:

- Establish trusting and empathetic relationships with patients through active listening and shared experiences.
- Provide emotional support and motivation to individuals in various stages of recovery.
- Serve as a role model by demonstrating personal recovery success and resilience.

3. Individualized Support:

- Collaborate with Patients to develop individualized recovery plans and goals.
- Offer practical guidance on navigating the healthcare and social service systems.
- Assist Patients in identifying and accessing relevant resources and community support.
- Assist Patients with all housing needs, shelters, boarding homes, TRA, Section 8, obtaining housing vouchers from Welfare, etc.

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- Assist Patients with Welfare applications and re-assessment needs as pertains to food stamps, monthly cash, short term housing support, childcare, work readiness and work activity, etc.
- Assist Patients with referrals and admission to detox and residential centers as well as admission to mental health programs as needed.
- Participate in case presentations to the treatment team along with the clinicians.
- Responsible for confirming all in-house doctor appointments. You may seek assistance from other Peer Recovery Specialists but it is your responsibility to report the outcome at the end of each day.

4. Education and Advocacy:

- Offer educational resources on addiction, recovery, and harm reduction.
- Advocate for Patients' rights and needs within the healthcare and legal systems.
- Promote awareness and understanding of substance use disorders within the community.
- Provide education on overdose prevention, connect patients to counseling, and refer them to treatment for infectious diseases and substance use disorders if the levels of care offered at the agency are not the ones the patient needs.
- Educate patients about opioid overdose reversal medications (e.g., naloxone Fentanyl strips) to reduce the likelihood of an overdose and prevent death.
- Provide education to lessen harms associated with drug use and related behaviors that increase the risk of infectious diseases, including HIV, viral hepatitis, and bacterial and fungal infections.
- Reduce stigma associated with substance use and co-occurring disorders.
- Connect patients with substance use disorders with health and social services or support groups

5. Documentation and Reporting:

- Maintain accurate and confidential records of patient interactions and progress in compliance with all DMHAS and NJ Medicaid Regulations.
- Provide weekly time sheets to the Clinical Director outlining patients served and services rendered.
- Compile data and prepare reports to assess the impact of peer support services.

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6. Professional Development:

- Stay current on best practices in the field of addiction recovery.
- Attend training and development opportunities to enhance your knowledge and skills.

Qualifications:

- Lived experience of successful recovery from a substance use disorder is required.
- High school diploma or equivalent (bachelor's degree in a related field is a plus).
- Certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to maintain professionalism, boundaries, and confidentiality.
- Empathy, patience, and a genuine commitment to helping others.
- Knowledge of local resources and community support services.
- Strong organizational and documentation skills.
- Computer proficiency for record-keeping and reporting.

Working Conditions:

- Maintain a clean and healthy work environment suitable for patient encounters.
- Work may involve irregular hours, including evenings and weekends.
- Ability to travel to various community locations to meet with patients.
- This position may require standing, sitting, and walking for extended periods.