

## **POSITION SUMMARY:**

Under direct supervision, the Peer Partner provides peer-to-peer support and counseling drawing on shared experiences as a peer to validate the student's experience. Provides guidance and encouragement to students to take responsibility and actively participate in their own recovery. This position models competency in recovery and serves as a mentor for students in an educational setting.

## **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Provides "lived experience" coaching to mentor, train, and support students to acquire and achieve independent living skills, wellness, and basic recovery skills.
- Encourages and supports each student's individual strengths, interests, skills and talents using a recovery-focused and strength-based approach.
- Develops and provides enrichment, life skills and coping skills workshops and trainings.
- In collaboration with the REI team, develops policies and procedures as related to lived experience, wellness, recovery and education.
- Supports the vocational choices students make and assist them in overcoming barriers to employment.
- Assists students individually and in groups to identify recovery goals.
- In coordination with a team, assist students in selecting courses and workshops that will be useful in achieving their recovery goals.
- Provides supportive assistance to and the modeling of self-efficacy with the student, to help him/her identify, access, and effectively utilize community resources.
- Assists students in learning social skills and independent living skills that facilitate community integration including budgeting, transportation and grooming and hygiene.
- Supports student's integration into the community through participating in on-campus events.
- Develop and facilitate peer support and self-help groups.
- Works actively with the program's other team members to develop strategies for outreach to students who tend to isolate themselves.
- Helps students and family members identify, understand and combat stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness and develop strategies to reduce self-stigma.
- Increases awareness and provide linkage to self-help programs and peer-focused advocacy organizations that promote recovery.
- Tracks services provided to students through documentation and other required paperwork.

- Participates in off-site presentations and outreach activities introducing the program to community partners and potential new students.
- Attends and participates in staff meetings on a regular basis to provide input towards program development and staff training.
- Attends and participates in scheduled supervision to provide or receive input towards program development and staff training.
- Reports to work on time and maintains reliable and regular attendance.
- Models Pacific Clinics' approach, mission and core values in all communication and correspondence.
- Communicates effectively in a culturally competent manner with a diverse member population and promotes favorable interaction with managers, co-workers and others.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS:**

This position requires that the Peer Partner be self-identified as a person with lived (or family) experience with mental illness and the mental health system. The individual should have the ability to identify recovery principles and explain their recovery process.

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS/INTERACTION:**

Initiate and maintain professional interactions and communication with Clinic's employees and/or others.

#### **EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE/POSITION REQUIREMENTS:**

- High school diploma or GED preferred but is not required. Completion of Mental Health Worker Training Course or Peer Support Specialist training is highly desirable.
- Position is reserved for an individual who has lived experience with mental illness or the mental health system.
- Basic knowledge of computer Word and Outlook skills, required.
- Flexible work schedule to include evenings.
- Maintains respectful interpersonal relationships with students while maintaining appropriate boundaries.
- Exhibits a non-judgmental approach to effective listening maintaining, respectful eye contact and an appropriate level of engagement.

- Demonstrates a commitment to student choice and empowerment.
- Must know or quickly acquire extensive knowledge of local community resources.
- Must possess a valid California driver's license and maintain an insurable driving record under the Clinics' liability policy (if driving two or more times per week on company business) OR if driving is not required, demonstrated ability to use public transportation, if applicable.

#### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

While performing the duties of this job the employee is frequently required to stand or sit. The employee is required to use hands to produce records and/or documentation in manual or electronic format. The employee must regularly lift and/or move up to 5 pounds and occasionally move or lift up to 10 pounds.

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.

#### **WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally exposed to moving mechanical parts and outside weather conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

#### **SITE SPECIFICS:**

A review of this description has excluded the marginal functions of the position that are incidental to job performance of the fundamental job duties. All duties and requirements are essential job functions.

This job description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties to be performed by this employee. The employee will be required to follow any other instructions and to perform any other duties requested by his or her manager and/or supervisor.