

Peer Specialists in Specialty Courts Supervision and Management

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Introduction

- Criminal Mental Health Project 2000
- Peer Specialists hired in 2004
- Most asked question: How do you find and maintain Peer Specialists?
- Peer Specialist Core Competencies provide foundation
- Job description
- Team Integration
- Supervision

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Peer Specialists

- Rapidly growing workforce
- Evidence-based practice demonstrated to:
 - improve quality of life
 - increased engagement in treatment & recovery,
 - improved social functioning,
 - reduced hospitalization
- Focused on empowerment, mutuality and the whole person

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Core Competencies

- Recovery Oriented
- Person Centered
- Voluntary
- Relationship Focused
- Trauma Informed
- https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/brss_tacs/core-competencies_508_12_13_18.pdf

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JOB DESCRIPTION: The Peer Specialist is an integral member of the Jail Diversion team and provides individualized supportive services to program participants in the Jail Diversion Program. This may include a wide range of functions.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide support services to program participant i.e., in-person, face to face, electronic and/or telephone contact
- Accompany participants and provide warm hand-off to community-based treatment, housing and supportive services including transitions from jail, hospital, residential treatment facilities and other residences.
- Accompany program participants to appointments in the community and court using available transportation as necessary, i.e. public transportation, rideshare or county vehicle.
- Provides information to program participants, staff and other stakeholder's, as necessary.
- Collaborate and coordinate with JDP team members to ensure successful outcomes for participants utilizing all forms of communication.
- Document interactions with program participants utilizing the identified data system such as Service Point and/or Credible
- Serve as consultant and faculty for Crisis Intervention Team training to law enforcement personnel.
- Handle multiple assignments.
- Performs related work as required.

QUALIFICATIONS: High School diploma or GED required. Certified Recovery Peer Specialist preferred but will consider applicants working toward certification, supplemented by knowledge and experience in mental health/substance abuse recovery and must be able to serve as role model of recovery; or any equivalent combination of education and experience that provides the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

- Knowledge of community resources in order to assist with linkage to mental health treatment, housing, supportive services and other community resources.
- Ability to follow directions and communicate effectively.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with co-workers, judiciary, court administration and community agencies.
- Ability to utilize public transportation.
- Ability to use computer programs such as Microsoft Office Suites and Share Point.
- Ability to manage time effectively.
- Ability to apply excellent organizational skills.

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Team Integration

- Recovery Oriented values, practices and culture
- Staff training and “buy-in”
- Policies and Procedures
- Regular team meetings
- Strength based approach
- Accountability

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Supervision

- Supervisors need knowledge of the principles and practices of peer support in order to provide effective supervision and improve utilization of the peer role
- Supervisors need to clearly know details of workers' jobs
- Supervisors need to know how to navigate the administration of the court as well as community resources
- Supervisors need to learn about the Americans with Disabilities Act and reasonable accommodations to enable workers with disabilities achieve success