POSITION TITLE:

Peer Recovery Specialist
United Way – Community Impact Grant

CLASSIFICATION TITLE:

POSITION LOCATION:

1014 Amherst Street, Suite 204
Winchester Virginia

POSITION UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF:

Peer Recovery Specialist Supervisor

POSITION SUMMARY:

Provides peer to peer support services to individuals with Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder who have been referred by Northwestern Community Services, Valley Health, Drug Treatment Court, Area 1 Rotary Clubs, local law enforcement agencies, Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center, District 11 Adult Probation and Parole Office, Free Medical Clinic, and other groups and organizations who have identified individuals who would benefit from interacting with a peer recovery specialist. Performs a variety of paraprofessional duties in support of wellness and recovery by utilizing their lived experiences of recovery and mental illness and/or substance use disorder plus skills learned in formal training to provide non-clinical group and individual sessions with the individuals served to promote their recovery and resiliency. Peer Support Specialists offer emotional support, share knowledge, teach skills, provide practical assistance and connect individuals with resources, opportunities, communities of support and other people. Services are non-clinical, person centered, strengths based, wellness focused, and trauma informed. Peer support services help to ensure the individual’s wellness-recovery plan reveals the needs and preferences of the individuals being served to complete their measurable and personalized goals.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Provide face to face interactions that support an individual achieving their self-identified level of recovery, wellness, independence or personal strengths.

2. Serve as a role model of recovery and wellness and self-advocacy.

3. The Peer Support Specialist will be mobilized through the “Peer Recovery Specialist Mobilization Program” to the following:
   - The hospital when an individual is taken to the emergency department following a drug overdose
   - To the aid of a law enforcement officer who has made contact with an individual with a substance use disorder
   - To a pregnant woman suffering with a substance use disorder (prenatal or postpartum)
   - To jail with those who are incarcerated
   - To the Probation and Parole Office to meet with clients
   - To meet with participants of the Drug Treatment Court
   - To assist a Community Health Worker (through the Free Medical Clinic) who is assisting a patient with a substance use disorder

4. Provide trained peer-to-peer support in groups encouraging and supporting participation and self-directed participation, such as WRAP, Dual Recovery, etc.

5. Facilitate non-clinical peer to peer recovery education and wellness coaching through group activities in topics such as health leisure activities, community involvement strategies, etc.

6. Mentor community integration activities by providing community networking and linkage with social, recreational, spiritual, volunteer, educational or vocational resources. Assist the person in identifying community based supports that sustain a healthy lifestyle.

7. Support, encourage, and enhance the development of natural support systems.

8. Provide emotional support during the acquisition, exploration and sustaining of employment and/or educational services.

9. Attends treatment team and program development meetings. Participates in regular group supervision and individual supervision as a means of enhancing professional growth, reviewing the provision of clinical services, and addressing administrative issues.

10. Coordinates with the consumer’s clinical team and other supports to arrange services or resources to help achieve their goals.

11. Promote the use of self-directed recovery and wellness tools in individualized treatment planning.

12. Share his or her unique perspective on recovery from mental illness or substance use disorder with non-peer staff.
13. Provides supportive level counseling throughout the prescreening process if needed by staff.

14. Participates in Northwestern Community Services trainings on peer support topics and services, including boundaries, confidentiality, safety, human rights, and ethics.

15. Performs other related duties as assigned.

**ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:**

**Knowledge:**

General knowledge and understanding of mental illness, substance use, and developmental disabilities. Knowledge and understanding of the principles and components of recovery. Knowledge of support counseling practices and techniques. Knowledge of the local mental health/substance use disorder local systems as well as various services available in the community including public, private, and volunteer organizations.

**Abilities:**

Ability to positively interact with persons with mental illness, substance use disorders and developmental disabilities, their family members, agency staff and community members. Ability to provide active listening, education and assistive supports to consumers and family members. Good personal management skills – time management, organization, dependability and independence. Ability to work as a team member with agency staff and others on behalf of Recovery initiatives.

**Qualifications:**

High School diploma or GED required. At least one year experience in behavioral health services or with behavioral health populations, whether through previous employment or participation in services, is required. Lived experience of recovery from mental illness and/or substance use disorder with at least 1 year of psychiatric stability and/or sobriety. Completion of peer based, recovery specialized training. DMAS qualified Paraprofessional eligible.

**SALARY RANGE:**

Hourly
$15.00 per hour
23 hours per week

**FLSA STATUS:**
**VERIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:**

This is to certify that I have read the above position description and accept the duties and responsibilities required of this position.

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**Effective:** August 2016

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