

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

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

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