

PCORI Community Health Worker (CHW)

POSITION SUMMARY:

The PCORI Integrated Smoking Cessation Project is run by Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Addiction Medicine, Bay Cove Human Services, Inc, and Vinfen Corp. The CHW will apply through and be an employee of Bay Cove or Vinfen and work under the supervision of the Project Manager, and in collaboration with the Co-Principal Investigators. The CHW will provide home-based outreach to engage study participants with serious mental illness (SMI) in identifying and prioritizing their own individual health goals and assist participants in accessing appropriate healthcare and supports regarding their identified health goals. The CHW will work in partnership with study participants who smoke using a motivational enhancement approach to engage participants in discussions about their reasons for smoking, to correct misperceptions, and to educate participants about the health risks of smoking and the benefits of and feasibility of smoking cessation. If a study subject chooses to make smoking cessation a goal, the CHW will introduce participants to evidence based smoking cessation tools and support smokers who undertake a quit attempt, including accompanying them to primary care providers (PCP) appointments and behavioral support smoking cessation groups. The CHW will collaborate with PCORI Investigators, behavioral support group leaders, participants' PCPs, pharmacists, and rehabilitation support teams in an effort to improve care coordination and health status for participants who undertake a quit attempt. The CHW may also co-lead smoking cessation groups.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducts home and community-based visits to engage participants in setting health goals including smoking cessation.
- Attends all required trainings, project meetings and supervision as indicated.
- Co-leads behavioral support smoking cessation groups.
- Uses recovery strategies such as motivational interviewing and strengths-based approaches to help participants set health goals.
- Models effective coping techniques and self-help strategies as indicated.
- Assists study participants in accessing health care services by preparing participants for their health care visits and / or by directly accompanying participants to health care visits.
- Supports communications with other health care providers on behalf of participants.
- Maintains appropriate written and oral communication, including encounter documentation.
- Participates in quality assessment and quality improvement within the scope of responsibilities as appropriate.
- Actively participates in the evaluation of own performance.
- Seeks to maintain a constructive work environment and maintains effective communication with others.
- Maintains confidentiality of client and employee information.
- Participates in data collection, reporting, analyses, and quality management activities designed to improve care and increase effectiveness of the study.
- Communicates a positive image as a representative of the PCORI project and the parent organization.

REQUIREMENTS:

Education / Licensure/ Experience:

- Two years experience in direct services to individuals with Serious Mental Illness preferred.
- Two years case management experience with individuals with disabilities preferred.
- Bachelor's Degree, Certified Community Health Worker, or Certified Peer Specialist in Psychology or Psychiatric Rehabilitation preferred.

Special Skills

- Excellent organizational, time management, problem solving skills, oral and written communication skills
- Ability to function effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Knowledge regarding psychiatric rehabilitation and recovery
- Strong interpersonal and customer relations skills
- Experience in Motivational Interviewing
- Effective teaching / coaching skills
- Familiarity with electronic health records
- Preference for a valid driver's license and be willing and able to drive a car to appointments when needed to a variety of locations within Eastern Massachusetts on a daily basis.

Physical Abilities

- Ability to climb stairs. Visual/hearing ability sufficient for written/verbal communication and job duties.