

Community Bridger Overview:

Many of us have experiences with coming home from a psychiatric hospitalization, feeling isolated and struggling to connect or reconnect to life outside of the hospital. The role of the Community Bridger is to help make this as smooth of a transition as possible. The Bridger's job falls into three components: support within a hospital setting, upon discharge, and within the community. The Bridger will facilitate various groups in a variety of hospitals in the Central Massachusetts area. Likewise, the Bridger will have one-on-one meetings with people who want access to the larger Central Mass community. In doing so the Bridger will provide information about a person's rights within and outside of a hospital and help to collectively brainstorm next steps. These meetings will require that the Bridger has established a personal, positive, and supportive relationship with a peer to ensure the peer's voice is heard and respected. While a peer is within the hospital, the Bridger may provide support during a meeting or appointment. During or after discharge, the Bridger may provide support with paperwork and steps necessary for food stamps, social security, paying bills and beyond. To do so, a Bridger must have an expansive understanding of local resources. These resources should include community-based services *and* natural supports. Upon the peer entering the community, the Bridger and the peer will work together to navigate community adjustment and wellness self-management skills. All support provided to any peer is free of charge and no referral or insurance is required.

We are looking for a full time Community Bridger, able to start by June 1st, 2018. Please submit your application and resume to Donna Macomber-Cassidy at Donna.MacomberCassidy@centralmassrlc.org or at the Kiva Center, 209 Shrewsbury St, Worcester MA 01604.