

Kiva Center & Central Mass Recovery Learning Community

Job Description

Job Title: Community Bridger

Job Summary:

The Community Bridger familiarizes themselves with the individual in the institutional setting or in the individual's specific community and the individual's unique interests and needs. They advocate for persons served by acting as a liaison between them and the community to ensure that persons served can access the services and resources they need and desire in the community. The Bridger supports the development of self-determination, self-advocacy skills and other strategies that promote recovery to persons served by teaching and modeling these skills. They serve as a mentor to promote, hope, resiliency and empowerment and are willing to share their own recovery story. They provide advocacy, education, support, information and training in recovery tools and techniques to individuals transitioning into the community. The Bridger meets with self-referred individuals about these opportunities and with colleagues in the hospital or other settings with the individual present upon request. The Bridger will complete bridging documentation to manage transportation. The Bridger will greet the individuals in the community if they choose to come to Kiva or CMRLC meetings.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities:

Community Bridging:

- Project coordination
- One on one peer support
- Peer Info & support groups
- Advocate for Peers as necessary
- Public presentations
- Connection to system/local community resources
- Develop relationships with community organizations/businesses
- Locate and share information on community social/creative opportunities (meetup groups, open mics, art museums, drum circles, etc.)
- Network with Peer workers statewide and nationally and encourage/develop collaborative efforts

Training/Information:

- Trauma-informed services training development and presentation
- Curriculum/presentation development (public/system, CMRLC community and Peer workforce)
- Cultural responsiveness

Benefits/Employment Counseling:

- Research/update information on Social Security, MassHealth, Medicare, Mass Rehab, DMH eligibility, etc.
- Present information/train Peers regarding eligibility, procedures, etc.
- Network with local SSA, DMH, BenePlan, MassHealth, etc. and advocate as necessary
- Liaison with Central MA Employment Collaborative (CMEC) and share employment opportunities

Minimum Qualifications:

- Education and/or Experience:
 - Lived experience with a mental health diagnosis, extreme states and/or trauma required.
 - One year experience in Advocacy or Peer Support preferred.
- Abilities:
 - Must have access to reliable transportation (with access to personal vehicles preferred).
 - Bilingual/Bicultural in English and American Sign Language or Spanish a big plus.
 - Ability to act as an advocate and empowering individuals to take leadership in their own recovery.
 - Ability and willingness to share own recovery story in an open and skillful manner, as related to mutuality and the Code of Ethics.
- Attributes:
 - Safe and approachable, including when under pressure.
 - Respectful of and compassionate toward other people's thoughts, behaviors, ideas, and needs.
 - Self-aware and independent with the ability to work in a team.
 - Displays optimism regarding recovery.
 - Open to all perspectives, with a focus toward keeping up-to-date with information about Peer Support and developments in the Recovery movement.
 - CPS preferred. Must have CPS accreditation within one year of hire.