

Appendix C

YOUNG ADULT PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Young Adult (YA) Peer Support Specialist

Status: Full-time

Work Site:

Reporting Structure: Reports to Transition-Age Youth Team Leader

Purpose of Job: The YA Peer Support Specialist will: (1) serve as an integral part of a multidisciplinary team through using his or her personal lived experience to connect with, validate, inspire, and provide support to transition-age youth diagnosed with serious mental health conditions in reaching their goals and (2) increase community awareness of mental health challenges among transition-age youth and what helps young people to cope with these challenges.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Assist TAY clients in developing self-advocacy and negotiating skills. Serve as a role model to TAY clients in communication, health and wellness, and conflict resolution.
- Share lived-experience story, as appropriate, to establish credibility and trust with TAY clients and their families.
- Partner with the TAY client and the team to identify the TAY's strengths, needs, and goals. Support TAY in developing specific, practical steps to reach their goals with the team. Support TAY in achieving goals.
- Collaborate on all support activities with the team when a TAY client indicates need for and acceptance of YA Peer Support Specialist involvement.
- Assist the team in partnering with TAY clients to support engagement in services, articulate preferences and concerns, and identify people within their support network and new resources that will support their personal goal attainment.
- Facilitate individual and group meetings with TAY clients that promote sharing, learning, and growth. These meetings are designed to meet the needs of the TAY in a particular context – thus they may be manual led, unstructured topical groups, skill-based groups, or social events.
- Assist team in developing language that accurately reflects the preferences of TAY who are

considering and/or engaged in services.

- Participate in individual and group supervision, multidisciplinary consultation meetings, team meetings, agency required training, and external trainings as applicable to position. Trainings may include: Motivational Interviewing, *Achieve My Plan! (AMP)*, *Wellness Management and Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)*, and/or Gathering Inspiring Future Talent (GIFT).
- Participate in discussions and learning opportunities that enhance skill set and connect the YA Peer Support Specialist to peers in similar roles at different agencies.
- Engage in community outreach and education. Assist team with championing initiatives to increase TAY client engagement in services. Share lived-experience as part of team outreach and education efforts.
- Document contacts/ activities per requirements of Performance Specifications for Therapeutic Mentoring.

Job Specific Qualifications, Experience, Education & Professional Attributes:

- Possesses lived experience in effectively coping with a serious mental health condition and a capacity to share his or her recovery story in a way that engages, inspires, and validates the experiences of TAY clients.
- Ability to effectively partner with TAY clients and team members to support TAY engagement and outcomes; able to work collaboratively with a team.
- Possesses a desire to ensure that TAY clients are heard; verbally communicates and advocates in a respectful manner.
- Has made sufficient progress with education and employment in order to prepare them to successfully engage TAY clients and support goal attainment.
- Openness to working with a diverse TAY clientele in a sensitive and competent manner.
- Ability to effectively share information about services, resources, and TAY client role and responsibilities to TAY clients, their self-identified support network, and caregivers.
- Ability to teach and role model communication and self-advocacy skills in a variety of settings (e.g., with informal social network, providers, organizations, courts, etc.).
- Ability and willingness to participate in and contribute to team activities including trainings, supervision, community and statewide meetings.
- Ability to complete service documentation using agency software in a timely manner and possesses a capacity to communicate effectively and professionally through email and phone.
- Ability to travel with and/or transport persons served and travel to meetings (via public transit or car). Must possess a current/valid driver's license, have a valid driving record with a clean driving history and a reliable automobile with proof of auto insurance or demonstrate competency in use of public transportation which can be modeled for young adults being served.