



Job Title: Peer Support Specialist (1 year contract)
Program: Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACTT)
Reports to: Team Lead, ACTT

Canadian Mental Health Association Durham is an integrated community mental health and primary care hub that has been providing mental health services to Durham Region for over 55 years.

During that time, it has evolved to provide a broad range of services to individuals and their families experiencing mental health challenges, from information and education to case management, psychosocial rehabilitation, housing and primary healthcare. These services are provided through inter-professional teams focused on providing clinically based services that, in addition to dealing with client mental health issues, address social determinants of health using the recovery model.

The Assertive Community Treatment Team is looking for a Peer Support Specialist who has experienced their own journey or supported someone through their journey with mental health and/or addictions challenges.

Responsibilities

Case Management Services

- Participates as a member of a high performance, multi-disciplinary team managing a shared caseload of individuals living with a severe and persistent mental illness within a variety of community settings
- Develops, writes, implements, evaluates and revises overall treatment goals and plans in collaboration with clients and team members
- Monitors, reviews and updates client care plans on a scheduled basis revising the plan, as necessary, ensuring flexibility to meet client's needs
- Participates in, and conducts client-centered comprehensive assessments of psychiatric history, mental status, physical health, use of drugs/alcohol, education/employment, social development, activities of daily living and family structure and relationships
- Documents client contacts using clinical methods and within predetermined time frame in accordance with CMHA Durham policies and procedures
- Delivers medications to clients and monitors effectiveness, potential side effects and/or interactions
- Ensures that clients understand CMHA Durham services and agrees to the expectations related to ACT services using appropriate agreements
- Supports and assists clients with maintaining their skills to live independently in the community and promotes safe and healthy living standards ensuring that client's basic needs of food, clothing and shelter are met
- Provides support services to clients assisting with scheduled appointments, arranging transportation to appointments and/or accompanying clients to appointments, as necessary
- Provides assistance to clients establishing peer and family support networks
- Establishes supportive therapeutic relationship with clients and advocates for, and with, clients families
- Consults and collaborates with community resources and service providers ensuring clients obtain the most appropriate services and receive continuity in their care

- Provides on-call crisis intervention during night hours and acts as back up to evening and weekend staff, as required
- Provides clients with opportunities for learning through recreation, vocational and concurrent disorder activities
- Other tasks as assigned by management

Peer Support Services

- Provides strengths-based and recovery oriented approaches with individuals and groups to help combat stigma, promote self-determination and instill hope
- Provides consultation from a mental health consumers perspective
- Promotes awareness and supports client participation in consumer self-help programs and advocacy organizations to increase recovery
- Facilitates recovery education and support groups including Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) from a recovery and strengths based perspective
- Attends professional meetings, educational conferences and designated training workshops, as assigned, in order to maintain up-to-date knowledge and transfer knowledge to staff within the organization

Requirements

- Must be able to work from a position of lived experience with mental health and/or addiction challenges
- Post-secondary education in a related area of study (i.e. mental health, social sciences or human services), and a minimum of two years related experience or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Sound knowledge of the Mental Health Act, Health Care Consent Act, Ontario ACTT Standards, social service benefits and related legislation in Ontario
- Ability to engage in participant interactions which negotiate complex boundaries of self-disclosure and appropriate working relationships
- In-depth knowledge of recovery and peer support movements
- Ability to apply recovery principles and empowerment oriented philosophies and practices
- Instructor certification in WRAP preferred
- Excellent communication (written and verbal) skills
- Ability to develop and maintain positive relationships clients, community, partners and represent the agency in a professional manner at all times
- Ability to acquire and utilize community resources effectively to meet client's needs
- Flexibility to adapt to change
- Ability to work independently and in a dynamic team environment
- Ability to think critically and creatively
- Ability to manage crisis situations
- Valid Ontario Driver's license, access to a dependable vehicle in safe working order and appropriate insurance coverage
- Works a variable work schedule, which may include evenings and weekends, as required
- Knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook), as well as the internet

Application Procedure

1. Forward cover letter and resume to recruitment@cmhadurham.org
2. Deadline for applications is **April 5, 2019**