



Job Title: PACT Peer Support

Position Summary:

The Peer Specialist is a member of a multidisciplinary team and is or has been a recipient of mental health services for severe and persistent mental illness. Because of life experience with mental illness and mental health services, the Peer Specialist provides expertise that professional training cannot replicate. Peer Specialists are fully integrated team members who provide highly individualized services in the community and promote client self-determination and decision making. The Peer Specialist is responsible for delivery of Peer Support services in an outpatient and community-based setting for adults with severe mental illness. The Peer Specialist embraces, develops and implements recovery-based principles with consumers, staff, Western and the community. Acts as a positive role model through good work ethic, fairness, flexibility and commitment to appropriate and direct communications; demonstrates energy and enthusiasm for Western's mission and vision.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provides peer counseling and support by drawing on common experiences as a peer to validate clients' experiences and provide guidance and encouragement to clients to take responsibility and actively participate in their own recovery.
- Serves as a mentor to clients to promote hope and empowerment for themselves.
- Advocates to the entire PACT team from a mental health consumer perspective concerning clients' experiences regarding symptoms of mental illness, clients' attitudes and opinions of treatment and experiences of recovery.
- Suggests appropriate changes in treatment plans to ensure immediate and appropriate interventions are provided in response to changes in clients' mental status or behaviors that put clients at risk.
- Provides work-related supportive services such as assistance securing necessary clothing and grooming supplies, wake-up calls, transportation, etc.
- Provides side-by-side services, skills teaching, support and environmental adaptations to assist clients with activities of daily living (ADLs). The ADLs may include such things as cleaning and laundry, transportation, grocery shopping and assistance with personal hygiene and grooming tasks.

- Assists and supports clients to obtain and utilize a personal primary care physician, dentist or other medical specialists as needed.
- Provides side-by-side support, coaching, and encouragement to clients to socialize. This includes planning leisure time activities on weekends, evenings and holidays.
- Performs on-call duties for crisis stabilization needs on a rotating basis with other PACT team members which includes nights and weekends.
- Attend and participate in all required meetings unless excused by the supervisor.

Education and Experience:

- Minimum experience and education equivalent to a High School Diploma or GED.
- Skills in the use of various maintenance tools and equipment.
- Effective written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective time management skills.
- Must have a valid Montana driver's license.

