**Talking About Mental Illness Volunteer Presenter**

(Specific qualification required)

**POSITION OVERVIEW:**

Trained ‘Talking About Mental Illness’ (TAMI) presenters share their personal stories of living with a mental illness with high school students, focusing particularly on the challenges and coping tools that have shaped their journey of recovery. Their stories serve to educate youth, reduce stigma, provide meaningful resources and offer a message of hope and recovery.

As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to engage with youth in a meaningful and personal discussion of your journey with mental illness and the way to wellness, gain skills in effective listening and public speaking, participate in a youth mental health awareness program, and be a team member in a dynamic program. Participants have found that they experience further growth and development in their own recovery journey.

***Please note that we are currently recruiting for very specific demographics that are under-represented in our current group of Volunteer presenters. Person presenting an interest must be in at least ONE of the following THREE categories: Youth (ages 18-25), Male/male identifying, Bilingual (English and French).***

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

The Volunteer must undergo mandatory training, which includes Volunteer Orientation Training and SafeTalk (suicide awareness training). Depending on availability, this may take 2 consecutive days or 2 separate days (3-5 hours per day).

In preparation to becoming a Volunteer presenter, the Volunteer will be expected to attend workshops for new presenters, one-on-one meetings with the coordinator, regular group meetings, and ongoing training/workshops. This is expected to take 3-5 hours per month on average. More time may be needed in the beginning stages (story preparation, training etc.).

Once the Volunteer is ready to present, each presentation is expected to take 2–4 hours (including travel time). Presentation notice is often given one month in advance, but may sometimes be given one week in advance. The Volunteer will be asked about their availability prior to assignment.

**PAY/HONORARIUM:**

This is a Volunteer position that requires commitment to training and preparation. There is no pay available for hours worked. However, when funds permit, a small honorarium may be provided to the Volunteer.

A letter outlining the Volunteer Role and the hours worked by the Volunteer can be provided upon request.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

* Develop an engaging personal story of recovery from mental illness to present to High School students
* Present to students in the classroom when opportunities arise
* Participate in the New Presenter Story Writing and Presentation Workshops
* Participate in regular TAMI meetings
* Participate in the development of the TAMI Program
* Register as a volunteer with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch
* Complete the requirements of the TAMI Program to become a trained presenter
* Maintain contact with the Coordinator if circumstances for presenting change for any reason
* Discuss changes with the Coordinator before making major changes to classroom stories prepared through the TAMI Program
* Respond to questions posed by students in a respectful and appropriate manner
* Maintain program confidentiality.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Volunteers are expected to arrange their own transportation to the school. In some cases a shared ride with the Facilitator may be arranged. Bus tickets can also be provided if needed.

**PERSONAL QUALITIES:**

TAMI Presenters should exhibit the following characteristics: sensitivity, openness, clear boundaries, recovery, reliability, trustworthiness, confidentiality, support of others, empathy, resilience, and the ability to work as a team member.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

* Minimum age of 18
* Have a lived experience of mental illness/mental health issue
* Be in **one or more** of the following categories:
  + Youth (age 18-25)
  + Male identifying
  + Bilingual (English and French).
* Have good insight into their path to recovery
* Willing to attend orientation sessions at the CMHA office
* Have the ability to communicate well in front of an audience or be willing to further develop this through training
* Be available during business hours

\*\*\**Please note that we are currently recruiting for these specific demographics only as they are under-represented in our current group of Volunteer presenters.*

**EXPRESSING INTREST:**

Please complete the provided form titled “TAMI SPEAKER VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM” and submit it to **Kamilla Riabko** by **11:59 p.m.** on **March 8, 2016.** If you require more time to complete your application please make arrangements with Kamilla as soon as possible.

**Kamilla Riabko***Vocational/Volunteer Programs Assistant*Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch  
301-1355 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON, K1H 8K7  
Phone: 613-737-7791 Ext. 118  
Fax: 613-737-7644  
Email: [volunteers@cmhaottawa.ca](mailto:volunteers@cmhaottawa.ca)

*The Canadian Mental Health Association is committed to developing inclusive, barrier-free selection processes and work environments. If contacted about this job posting, please advise us if you require any accommodations regarding the interview process.*

Applicants who receive a conditional offer to become a volunteer presenter must produce a **Vulnerable Sector Police Records Check**. CMHA will provide a volunteer letter which will waive the fee associated with this.

*If you do not see the application form, please contact Kamilla to have it emailed or mailed to you.*

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.