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Charity BN/Registration # 89971 7961 RR0001

Peer Support Worker – Temporary Contract

PSO is a membership-based, peer support organization of present and former psychiatric consumers/survivors who meet: for mutual support, to learn about our rights and ensure they are respected, to find alternatives to traditional psychiatric services, to support our dignity and self-respect, to educate professionals and the public on our needs and concerns, to change how the mental health system treats us by having our experiences and expertise respected in the mental health system and to build a strong consumer/survivor community.

This position is sited at Ottawa Salus, which offers supportive housing options for adults with serious mental health challenges and concurrent challenges including substance use challenges, homelessness and cycles of hospitalization.

Position: Peer Support Worker
Reporting To: Recovery Connections Program Manager
Salary and Hours: \$23.50/ hr – 20 hours per week until November 30, 2022. Possibility of renewal depending on funding.

Please submit a covering letter addressing how you meet the listed competencies and resume by **4pm, November 15, 2021** and address it to the attention of the Hiring Committee. *No phone calls please. All applicants will be contacted once the position has been filled.*

Job Summary:

This position requires the peer support worker to become familiar with supportive housing and mental health services at Salus Ottawa and to co-create in-person and virtual peer support programming that will complement these services. This work will be done in co-operation with current and past residents of Salus Ottawa.

The peer support worker position acts as a support to residents of Salus. The worker will be sited at locations and in programs as defined by the priorities of Salus.

The worker initially will provide non-clinical one-to-one and group support in addition to sharing expertise derived from having personal experience with recovery from serious mental health challenges, concurrent challenges including substance use challenges, homelessness, cycles of hospitalization and/or living in supportive housing. The focus of this position will be on using a model of intentional peer support to engage clients, provide support and mentorship through supportive listening, sharing knowledge of peer support, and empowering individuals by sharing information about tools such as WRAP with Salus residents.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provide non-clinical virtual and/or in-person self-help groups to residents at Salus. Groups may be co-facilitated with clinical staff or peer-led.
2. Serve as a role model for clients by supporting and promoting recovery within the context of peer support services.
3. Support and empower residents in seeking out information related to their needs.
4. Ensure their activities and actions are consistent with Salus Ottawa's policies and procedures.
5. Take responsibility for professional development and participate in any relevant training and/or information sessions.
6. Work with other team members and partner organizations to address emerging issues in community settings.
7. Provide support and expertise to the planning, implementation and facilitation of other groups or activities offered by Salus Ottawa.
8. Participate in education, evaluation and research activities within the context of family/peer support services.
9. Outreach and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to build awareness of, and promote, peer support.

Competencies

1. A demonstrated ability to use lived experience in the context of empowering others. Experience as a resident of supportive housing is an asset.
2. Background in Substance Use, Behavioural Addictions, Mental Health, Advocacy or other Social Service work would be an asset. Life and work experience will be considered, as will a demonstrated commitment to ongoing education. Training certifications in programs such as WRAP, or a commitment to acquire these certifications, is required.
3. Demonstrated understanding of the principles and value of intentional peer support.
4. Demonstrated knowledge of peer support and family support community resources.
5. Experience in program creation.
6. Experience in group facilitation.
7. Experience using virtual platforms, such as Zoom.
8. Superior communication skills that inspire empowerment and hope.
9. A good grasp of the principles of self-care, empowerment, hope, and self-determination, and an understanding of working from a strengths-based perspective.
10. Ability to work with a diverse group of people within their unique perspectives and experiences.
11. A superior ability to establish trusting relationships with others.
12. Ability to work independently and as part of a diverse team.
13. Ability to establish appropriate boundaries in order to provide a non-judgmental, confidential and respectful environment.
14. Bilingual preferred.
15. Proof of COVID-19 vaccine required.