

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Paterson Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PEER ADVOCATE

REPORTING

RELATIONSHIP: Reports to Independent Living Program Director

JOB SUMMARY: The Behavioral Health Peer Advocate is responsible for assisting people with behavioral health disabilities to maximize their independence, effect community change and be involved with executing broader agency and community advocacy goals.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES:

1. Promote and provide advocacy services to recipients of mental health services
2. Provide systems advocacy in order to insure that services are responsive to recipients needs
3. Meet formally and informally with recipients and family members to ascertain their satisfaction with services
4. Participate with community peers to develop self-help groups that will make a positive contribution to the recovery of recipients
5. Participate as appropriate in regional and statewide recipient organizations
6. Provide advocacy and support for families of persons with mental health diagnosis
7. Promote positive public attitudes toward mental health services and the recipients thereof, so as to counteract the negative stigma and resulting discrimination
8. Provide Self-Help and Advocacy Training programs and support groups
9. Assist people to learn benefits entitlements such as social security, vocational assistance, social services, housing assistance, adult and child protection services, home health care and personal assistance services, person in need of petitions, Medicaid and food stamps.
10. Model and initiate the learning of self-advocacy skills and the Independent Living Philosophy
11. Complete all reporting and record keeping as required

ADDITIONAL JOB DUTIES

1. Engage consumers to become involved in NRCIL programs and participate in Center activities and advocacy efforts
2. Devise a plan for an unexpected absence from this position
3. Work outside regular hours when necessary
4. Perform any additional duties as may fall within the scope of said position and ability of employee as requested by Program Director and/or Executive Director

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelors degree and minimum of 3 years work experience preferred, or appropriate combination of skills, experience and education. Must have good verbal and written communication skills and strong interpersonal skills. Must be well organized, able to work independently and able to meet deadlines. Should have interests in disability rights and familiarity with the concept and philosophy of the independent living movement. Preference will be given to applicants who have personal experience using mental health services. Equal Opportunity Employer

August 2018