



Position: Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist (BHPSS)
Hours: 20-40 hours per week, Monday – Friday
*Evening and weekend work is sometimes required in this position.
Flexible scheduling, some overtime may be requested.*
Compensation: \$15.00 - \$18.00 per hour, based on experience. This is a non-exempt position.

YWCA Helena Mission:

YWCA Helena is committed to preventing homelessness, providing safe and supportive housing for women and children experiencing homelessness, and providing services that restore hope, self-sufficiency, and happy, healthy lives. Together with YWCA USA and YWCA's across the country, we are dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Job Summary:

This position is part of a team responsible for providing peer support services to persons with mental illness and/or substance abuse problems. The Peer Support Specialist promotes client self-determination and decision-making. In consultation with the YWCA Helena program team and agency therapeutic staff, the Peer Support Specialist will model competency in recovery and maintaining ongoing wellness. S/He will help clients set and achieve meaningful goals in the areas of mental health, substance use recovery, education, daily living skills, relationships, productivity, and leisure. Service provision will focus on working with clients to enhance and sustain their recovery. The Peer Support Specialist assists YWCA Helena clients either individually or in groups.

Responsibilities:

Program Responsibilities:

- To provide individualized, ongoing guidance, coaching and support.
- To provide training in the use of personal and community resources.
- Assist in developing formal and informal community supports
- Assist the person served in increasing social support networks of relatives, friends and/or significant others.
- To offer encouragement in times of crisis.
- To advocate on behalf of clients to protect the client's rights and to assist in reducing associated stigma.
- To work in cooperation with other providers, family members or significant others involved in the client's recovery plan.
- To attend Agency staff meetings, and Individual and Group Supervision.
- Ability to observe all rules of confidentiality relating to clinical information and treatment, both internally and when dealing with external agencies and/or individuals.
- Be responsible for understanding client's rights policy and procedures.

Agency Responsibilities:

- Proven ability to work in a team environment.
- Must participate in staff training and development.
- Service and participation on committees both within the agency and supportive committees with collaborative partner agencies.
- Ability to meet professional standards at all times, follow the guidelines established within the Code of Ethics and Conduct, and comply with YWCA Helena handbook.
- To perform other related duties as assigned.



Employment Qualifications

Education: High School Diploma or GED required, Certification through the Montana Board of Behavioral Health or other appropriate governing Board.

Experience: Past or present consumer of mental health or substance abuse services with a history of managing one's own illness. Awareness of the importance of recovery in living with a mental illness or addiction. Experience working directly with people in a service-oriented field is beneficial.

Peer Support Specialists must be willing to be open about their recovery status whether it is as a person in recovery or who have lived experiences of mental health and or substance use disorders. Peer Support Specialists must demonstrate sustained and stable recovery for a period of at least 2 years.

Skills: Ability to work well with others. Familiarity with the Helena community. Ability to interact with various types of people. A sound understanding of mental health and/or substance abuse issues and treatments. Personal traits which include: listening skills, patience, tolerance, empathy, mature and understanding demeanor, professional boundaries.

Licensure: Not required. Certification through the Montana Board of Behavioral Health or other appropriate governing Board is required.

A background check is required for all staff at YWCA Helena.

JOB RELATIONSHIPS

Administrative Supervisor: Executive Director

Clinical Supervisor: LAC, WINGS Program Director

Please submit cover letter, resume, and three professional references to erin@ywcahelena.org. This position is open until filled. To be considered for the first round of interviews, please submit your materials by close of business, Monday, March 1st, 2021.