

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS PEER CERTIFIED SUPPORT SPECIALIST

EST: XX.24

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, incumbents provide information, support, assistance and advocacy for recipients, and/or caregivers/family members of clients of behavioral health services (mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders).

Incumbents in this class work within a system of interdisciplinary departmental teams and/or contract service agencies providing assessment, prevention, intervention, treatment, and related ancillary support services via an integrated service delivery system to people with alcohol and other drug-related problems, mental illness, and/or co-occurring conditions. Incumbents will provide information, training, support, encouragement, advocacy, service effectiveness assessment and related services in order to assist clients and family/caregivers in coping with immediate situations.

Incumbents perform the full scope of assignments in the Behavioral Wellness Peer Specialist series and report to a program supervisor. The full scope includes assisting other mental health professionals in the provision of client treatment, directly assisting clients and families/caregivers in the utilization of appropriate community resources, providing education and information to clients and the community, and provide a unique client perspective to the departmental team.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: Duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Orienting clients, their family members, significant others, and caregivers to the behavioral health system and assisting these parties to navigate the system and receive necessary services.
2. Facilitates client, family member, and caregiver access to departmental and community resources and services provided by other community and public agencies to provide advocacy and support in meeting client's needs, including assisting with scheduling appointments and transportation or accompanying the client to meetings that affect their receipt of services.
3. Conducts intake interviews, assessments, one-on-one counseling, presentations, including educational presentations on alcohol and other drug abuse to community groups and other agencies, and leads small groups.
4. Participates in clinical staff meetings.
5. Provides peer assistance and mentoring to promote client engagement in supportive networks and activities within and outside the behavioral health system.
6. Assists clients in developing independent living skills in activities such as housekeeping, shopping, budgeting, using public transportation, and attending to personal grooming and hygiene, etc. through demonstration and coaching.
7. Maintains electronic health records by completing documentation of work effort in a manner consistent with departmental standards for productivity.
8. Provides direction to Peer Support Specialist Trainees.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Possession of a valid CALMHSA Peer Certification, **AND**

1. One year of experience as a Behavioral Wellness Peer Support Specialist Trainee; or
2. One year of experience equivalent to the duties of a Behavioral Wellness Peer Support Specialist Trainee; or
3. A combination of training, education, and experience that is equivalent to the employment standard listed above and that provides the required knowledge and abilities.

Driver's License: Independent travel in the performance of duties is required for some positions in this class. For such positions, a valid California Class C Driver's License is required at the time of appointment.

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Knowledge of: Characteristics of human behavior; needs and challenges faced by clients and/or caregivers/families of mental health services with diverse and marginalized backgrounds; Basic needs and challenges of individuals and families accessing the behavioral health system and/or experiencing mental health challenges; Recovery principles, as well as the complex public and/or private agency services available for individuals and families with behavioral health needs; Community resources and cultures; basic English grammar and usage; and safe driving practices.

Ability to: understand the principles of the behavioral health system and effectively work within the system; effectively represent and advocate for the client perspective within the community and behavioral health system; understand and articulate the cultural and social factors affecting behavior patterns; effectively communicate the resources and services available to service clients, parents, family members and caregivers; establish and maintain strong working relationships with a wide range of community agencies and organizations; obtain and record accurate information for case documentation and other reports; complete necessary documentation to ensure participants are linked to necessary resources (i.e. Medi-Cal, CMSP, and job applications); demonstrate culturally sensitive and appropriate interactions; effective communication; and teamwork.

Working Conditions: Incumbents may have occasional contact with hostile and violent clients. Incumbents may be required to drive long distances under varied weather conditions, and work irregular hours.

Background Investigation: All job offers will remain contingent on the successful completion of a pre-employment background investigation and medical evaluation. The successful completion of these processes prior to an employee beginning employment may be waived at the Department's discretion to meet business needs. In this case though, such employee's continued employment will remain contingent upon successful completion of the background investigation and medical evaluation.