

## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

## BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINEE

EST: XX.24

**DEFINITION:** Under direct supervision, provide information, support, assistance and advocacy for clients and/or caregivers/family members of clients of behavioral health services (mental health and co-occurring substance use disorder). Incumbents in this class provide training, support, encouragement, and related duties to assist clients and family/caregivers in coping with immediate situations. Incumbents in these classes work within a system of interdisciplinary departmental teams and will provide feedback and perspective to the behavioral health system relative to the impact and effectiveness of the services provided.

This is the entry-level class in the Behavioral Wellness Peer Specialist series. Incumbents in this class may promote to the Peer Certified Support Specialist with satisfactory work performance and upon meeting the minimum qualifications of the latter class.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:** Depending on the area of assignment, duties may include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Provides personal lived experience of behavioral health related to recovery and resiliency to the people served in the behavioral health system of care.
2. Supports the work of PEER Certified Support Specialists in informing, training, and empowering clients and families/caregivers of clients who directly or indirectly receive behavioral health services.
3. Attends and participates in special events, conferences, workshops and trainings within the mental health system and in the community.
4. Helps clients and those who support them to articulate their needs.
5. Serves as a role model for clients.
6. Supports the appropriate acceptance and understanding of social and cultural factors in the provision of behavioral health services.
7. Provides mutual support to clients while providing transportation services.
8. Observes and reports the behavioral, emotional and physical state of clients verbally and in writing to supervisor(s) and/or treatment team. Assists clients in completing online forms and applications.
9. Provide the client and family/caregiver perspective in the development of programs and services and in the formulation of treatment strategies.

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:**

A high school diploma or GED equivalent; **AND**,

- 1) Experience interacting with behavioral health services or its systems of care; or
- 2) A combination of training, education, and experience that is equivalent to the employment standard listed above and that provides the required knowledge and abilities.

**Additional Qualifications:** Incumbents must complete CalMHSA Peer Support Specialist training within the first year of hire.

**Driver's License:** A valid California Class C Driver's License may be required at the time of appointment depending on programmatic needs.

**Knowledge of:** basic English grammar and usage; characteristics of human behavior; and safe driving practices.

**Ability to:** learn the basic principles of the behavioral health system and effectively work within the system; represent, model, and advocate for the client perspective within the behavioral health system; understand cultural and social factors affecting behavioral patterns; effectively communicate the workings of the mental health system to clients, parents, family members and caregivers; establish and maintain working relationships with a wide range of community agencies and organizations; obtain and record accurate information for documentation and other reports; understand the basic needs and difficulties faced by ethnically diverse clients, caregivers and families of behavioral health clients; and understand the community resources of public and/or private agency services available for families, children and adults with serious behavioral health needs, such as schools, social services and other systems.

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**Working Conditions:** Incumbents will have occasional contact with clients who may become hostile and/or violent. Incumbents may be required to drive long distances under varied weather conditions.

**Background Investigation:** Finalists for positions in this class will be required to pass a pre-offer, job-related background investigation.