

Peer Specialist Position for OnTrackNY @ Lenox Hill Hospital

Full time (37.5) Peer Specialist position with options for flexible hours

OVERVIEW

The OnTrackNY Program is an innovative treatment program at Lenox Hill Hospital. The program serves adolescents and young adults who are within two years of experiencing the onset of non-affective psychosis. The Peer Specialist will work 1 FTE (37.5 hours) as part of an OnTrackNY team with program participants, family members, and all other team members. The Peer Specialist serves a unique role on the team. By drawing on their own lived experience of overcoming challenges with mental illness, the Peer Specialist can use their unique perspective to inspire hope in clients and families, and model relationships built on respect, validation and trust. The Peer Specialist can provide an essential framework for highlighting the potential that each client has for achieving a successful recovery trajectory.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Outreach/Engagement/Bridge Building:** Helping to facilitate engagement with OnTrackNY teams by forging strong connections with participants and families, undertaking outreach activities designed to promote community awareness of OnTrackNY services, encouraging help-seeking, and at times serving as a bridge between team members and participants when they experience ambivalence about treatment.
- **Relationship Building:** Developing authentic, meaningful relationships with individuals and families through empathy, sharing experiences, listening and collaborating with genuine curiosity and interest.
- **Embracing Creative Narratives:** Peer Specialists need to be able to understand, share and discuss multiple frameworks for understanding life experiences such as psychosis with participants and the rest of the OnTrackNY team. Peer Specialists intentionally use language in the service of listening to understand and making space for complex personal stories of recovery and resilience.
- **Advocacy:** Peer Specialists advocate with and for program participants both in the larger community and on the team.
- **Co-Creating Support and Wellness Tools:** Collaborate with participants to clarify their personal visions and develop their wellness toolkit. Along with other team members, Peer Specialists support participants in strengthening their self-awareness, building life skills, and connecting to resources and community outside of the OnTrackNY team.
- **Influencing Team Culture:** Whenever possible, positively influencing the team culture by advocating for clients, promoting a youth friendly approach and encouraging the use of recovery oriented language. OnTrackNY Peer Specialists also work actively within the team itself to help build an environment that operates from a belief in the human potential to grow and an understanding of human diversity.
- **Team Communication:** Peer Specialists maintain open and frequent communication with the team. This includes reporting safety and other concerns to the team. Peer Specialists will also keep notes on visits with program participants as required by the provider agency. In the spirit of peer support, co-collaborating on reporting with the program participant is encouraged.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- It is preferable that the individual's lived experience of mental health challenges includes experience with psychosis during their youth. However, personal experience with psychosis is not required.
- The Peer Specialist must be able to relate well and enjoy working with adolescents and young adults.
- As much as possible, the Peer Specialist should have an understanding of the community in which the team is based with an awareness of available community resources.
- The Peer Specialist should also be someone who possesses the fundamental skills to meet the job requirements.
- The Peer Specialist should demonstrate good interpersonal communications skills and the ability to empathize with, relate to and effectively work with participants of mental health services
- The individual should have two years of active participation in mental health self-help activities, peer support or peer advocacy programs, or participant run organizations or similar experiences or programs.
- They must possess the ability/willingness to disclose their recovery story (where appropriate) for the purposes of empowerment

To Apply: Please send a cover letter and resume to Ljiljana Zecevic, PhD: lzecevic@northwell.edu