

NYAPRS, INC.
JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Peer Bridger
Division: Peer Services
Reports to: Ellen Healion, MEd Director Peer Services

Position Summary: Under the general supervision of the Director of the Peer Services, the Peer Bridger engages referred individuals who are residing in the Psychiatric Center and OMH Housing Programs. The Peer Bridger coordinates activities to form trust-based relationships that foster hope for positive change and personal empowerment, leading to successful integration back into the community. The Peer Bridger models and educates staff and referred individuals on the Peer Bridger Model to maintain the fidelity of the model. The Peer Bridger is a paid staff member of NYAPRS.

Major Responsibilities/Activities:

- Maintains own personal wellness.
- Provides support with flexibility and Person First logic.
- Maintains fidelity to the Peer Bridger Model, to continue to engage individuals residing in State Psychiatric Centers and OMH residential facilities, regardless of perceived ability to participate.
- Initiate and maintain regular communications/meetings with referred individuals using multiple communication techniques including, but not limited to, the use of technology, face-to-face meetings, phone calls, e-mails, usps, etc.
- Provide support to referred individuals that are have opportunities to visit certain locations within the community that are meaningful to him/her.
- Continue support to referred individuals post discharge to identify and engage in a range of community-based support groups and activities of interest.
- Provides timely reporting to Supervisor/Liaison of situations that require(d) urgent response.
- Can and does interact with a wide variety of individuals experiencing a wide variety of abilities in activities and/or group meetings.
- Organizes and coordinates activities, meetings, and trainings that include referred individuals.
- Provide regularly scheduled opportunities for staff information and training on the Peer Bridger Model.
- Facilitates a minimum of 8 weekly peer support group meetings in the hospital and/or the community.
- Attends trainings as required and assigned by supervisor.
- Communicates with OMH Hospital Liaison on a regular basis, including the NYAPRS Supervisor.
- Educates staff and organizes new groups, in multiple environments and encourages staff to refer individuals to the Bridger service.

- Is creative in creating groups and individual services to meet the needs of the individuals being served. (especially in the environment of COVID)
- Maintains personal protective guidelines by using masks, hand sanitizer, social distancing, preparing each meeting by sanitizing area to be used and use of thermometer for participants.
- Prepares and maintains detailed written record of activities to meet documentation and reporting requirements for NYAPRS projects. (Work Logs, List of Referrals, goals of referred individual and progress notes demonstrating milestones met.)
- Reports to and meets with NYAPRS supervisor on a regular basis.

Requirements:

- GED or High School diploma.
- NYS CPS or in the process of obtaining the Peer Specialist Certification
- Lived experience with the mental health system required. Experience with and knowledge of the NY State public mental health and substance use system.
- Demonstrated knowledge of advocacy, self-help, and empowerment programs for recipients of mental health and substance use services.
- Ability to convey a message of hope and recovery for people with psychiatric disabilities.
- Ability to complete basic documentation requirements regarding work activities. Solid written and oral skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Outlook, Excel, Power Point), Google, on-line research, and internet/email access, preferred.
- Must have own vehicle, clean driving record, and adequate automobile insurance coverage.)
- Flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends as needed to meet the needs of people we serve.
- Must reside in the County being served.

Email letter of Intent and CV/Resume to hr@nyaprs.org and ellenh@nyaprs.org