



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Dave Chokshi, MD, MSc

*Commissioner*

## Now Hiring

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Mental Hygiene seeks full and part time Wellness Advocates for its nonfatal overdose response system called **Relay**, an initiative providing 24/7 support to individuals transported to hospital emergency departments (EDs) following a non-fatal opioid overdose. We work to ensure that all people who use drugs have an equal opportunity to achieve their full health potential.

### Position Available: Full Time Wellness Advocate

The full time Wellness Advocate, reporting to the Wellness Advocate Supervisor in the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment, has the primary responsibility of visiting patients in the ED to provide immediate support and overdose prevention training following an opioid overdose event and offering ongoing support and linkage to care for a maximum of 90 days after hospital discharge. Relay is committed to the safety of its staff and will provide essential PPE, safety equipment and guidelines for in-person work in collaborating EDs.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

The full time Wellness Advocates will be responsible for the following activities, including but not limited to:

- Using their lived experience with substance use to provide support to patients in the ED following a non-fatal overdose, introduce the program to patients and obtain consent for follow up services.
- Conduct overdose risk reduction education and prevention trainings with patients and their social networks including naloxone distribution.
- Provide patients with support and assist with linkage to care and community resources for a maximum of 90 days following hospital discharge. Accompany patients to appointments as required.
- Provide information on and offer appropriate referral options to harm reduction programs, medication assisted treatment, and other services as requested.
- Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the program to assigned ED and the referrals to community services.
- Provide technical assistance and train ED staff on program implementation, policies and procedures. Closely collaborates with ED staff and community partnerships on continued integration of Relay.
- Maintain detailed records of patient contacts and follow-up activities. Collect and report program data to evaluate program performance.

**Salary:** \$55,000

### Qualifications:

A Wellness Advocate possesses first-hand lived experience using substances and is eager to draw from their own personal history in order to provide support through risk reduction education, naloxone training, and linkage to care for those experiencing a non-fatal opioid overdose in the Emergency Department. The successful candidate will have familiarity and openness to a range of drug treatment modalities, the principles of harm reduction, and will possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree. This candidate will be a Certified Peer Recovery Advocate (CRPA or CRPA-P) or have commensurate experience of at least two years in the human service field. This candidate will also be willing to travel within the five boroughs, have a demonstrated ability to work with culturally diverse populations and have strong communication and organizational skills. Staff will be required to be in compliance with state mandated requirements for health care workers and health requirements of our collaborating hospitals, which include vaccination for COVID-19.

### To Apply:

Please send your cover letter and resume to: [RelayAdmin@health.nyc.gov](mailto:RelayAdmin@health.nyc.gov)



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Oxiris Barbot, MD

Commissioner

**Position Available: Part Time Wellness Advocate**

**Relay** provides 24/7 support to individuals transported to hospital emergency departments (EDs) following a non-fatal opioid overdose. The part time Wellness Advocate, reporting to the Wellness Advocate Supervisor in the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment, will visit patients in the ED to provide immediate support and overdose prevention training following an overdose event and link patients with team members for ongoing support and linkage to care. Relay is committed to the safety of its staff and will provide essential PPE, safety equipment and guidelines for in-person work in collaborating EDs.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

The part time Wellness Advocates will be responsible for the following activities, including but not limited to:

- During contracted hours, be on-call to respond to alerts that a patient has been transported to a hospital ED following a non-fatal overdose and has agreed to be contacted.
- Using their lived experience with substance use to provide support to patients in the ED following a non-fatal overdose, introduce the program to patients and obtain consent for follow up services.
- Conduct overdose risk reduction education and prevention trainings with patients and their social networks including naloxone distribution.
- Work collaboratively with ED staff.
- Maintain detailed records of patient contacts.
- Collect, report and review program data to assess program performance.
- Attend monthly supervision meetings.
- Work collaboratively with other Relay team members and perform other duties as assigned.

**Salary:**

Compensation for this position is as follows:

\$15.75/hr when On-Call, anywhere within one hour of the assigned hospital ED

\$31.50/hr when responding to an ED Call, including travel time to and from ED.

**Qualifications:**

A Wellness Advocate possesses first-hand lived experience using substances and is eager to draw from their own personal history in order to provide support through risk reduction education, naloxone training, and linkage to care for those experiencing a non-fatal opioid overdose in the Emergency Department.

The successful candidate will have familiarity and openness to a range of drug treatment modalities, the principles of harm reduction, and will possess, at a minimum, a high school diploma. This candidate will be a Certified Peer Recovery Advocate (CRPA or CRPA-P) or have commensurate experience of at least two years in the human service field.

This candidate will also be willing to travel within the five boroughs, have a demonstrated ability to work with culturally diverse populations and have strong communication and organizational skills. Staff will be required to be in compliance with state mandated requirements for health care workers and health requirements of our collaborating hospitals, which include vaccination for COVID-19.

**Work Schedule:**

There are three shifts:

1. Weekday (Monday-Friday) overnights 7pm-7am
2. Saturdays and Sundays 7am-7pm
3. Saturdays and Sundays 7pm-7am

Must also be available for program training and supervision. Staff should be available to work, at a minimum, 2-3 shifts

**To Apply:**

Please send your cover letter (indicate all shifts you are available for) and resume to: [RelayAdmin@health.nyc.gov](mailto:RelayAdmin@health.nyc.gov)