



HIV & Mental Health Peer Support Specialist

QUEST CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

HIV & MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST: POSITION DESCRIPTION

Reports to: HIV Services Program Coordinator

Hours: 1.0 FTE (40 hours per week) with flexible schedule. Some travel required.

ABOUT QUEST CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH:

Quest Center is a nonprofit healthcare clinic that provides multidisciplinary and integrative healthcare in a community-based setting to all people, regardless of income. We are licensed by the state of Oregon as a mental health and substance use disorder program. We believe that people thrive when their physical, emotional, spiritual, and social needs are effectively met.

We work to assist our clients to sustain lifestyle changes that support healing, and to effectively strengthen those diagnosed with chronic or life-challenging illnesses, including HIV, mental health disorders, chemical dependency, and cancer. We are proud to be recognized for our service delivery to the LGBTQ+ community.

POSITION OVERVIEW:

The goal of the Ryan White-funded Mental Health Peer Support program is to support to people living with HIV (PLWH) in their efforts to access and remain engaged in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder treatment. Using a model that values lived experience as a way to promote recovery, Quest is looking for a Certified Peer Support Specialist in recovery and transformation from mental illness who can serve as a resource for those experiencing similar issues.

We are seeking an experienced Peer Support Specialist (PSS) to provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in their efforts to access and remain engaged in Mental Health services. **The HIV PSS will help prioritize marginalized communities for whom the impact of HIV is most severe so our program can address health equity gaps along lines of race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender expression.**

The Peer Support Specialist will work in collaboration with Quest Center staff to support HIV+ clients who are seeking support in accessing supportive Mental Health therapy and treatment programs. The PSS will make referrals to local treatment providers and help clients navigate treatment systems in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas and some outlying counties while also helping the individual connect with housing, healthcare, substance use disorder recovery, and other service providers within the HIV community to help improve medical outcomes. ***Applicants in recovery from substance abuse must have a minimum of 2 years sober.***

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

- Establish and maintain relationships with local treatment providers and community partner organizations for an efficient referral process and quality care coordination.
- Collaborate with Quest Center staff for all internal referrals. Attend Quest team huddles and cross-departmental meetings on a regular basis in order to coordinate care and receive referrals.
- Outreach to potential clients interested in, but perhaps not yet ready for, Mental Health services.

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES (CONTINUED)

- Apply person-centered principles of Intentional Peer Support to build relationships, trust, community, and rapport.



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- Assess client needs and co-create goal plans accordingly. Provide individual and wraparound care to help Peer clients fulfill their goal plans and be successful in treatment services.
- Utilize cultural competency, active listening, and motivational interviewing skills to assist clients in reaching their treatment goals.
- Travel with peer clients to and from appointments to provide support, as needed.
- Co-facilitate a weekly Peer Community Group.
- Complete chart notes for client encounters and submit all program paperwork in a professional, timely manner.
- Attend regular clinical supervision meetings.
- Perform other duties as assigned/needed.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledgeable about the lived experience of mental illness and willingness to share that experience.
- Knowledgeable about the unique challenges of living with HIV and willingness to share that experience.
- Hold a Peer Support Specialist certification from a State-approved training program, OR be willing to become certified immediately.
- Meet the definition of a Peer as defined by the State of Oregon Administrative Rules: A self-identified person currently or formerly receiving mental health services; OR A family member of an individual who is a current or former recipient of mental health services.
- Familiarity with HIV providers and mental health treatment programs in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties.
- Ability to manage time and meet deadlines. Ability to maintain accurate records and necessary paperwork.
- Basic computer and keyboard proficiency using Microsoft Office software (Word, Excel, Outlook) and working knowledge of the internet.
- Ability to work with ethnic, racial, economic, and sexually diverse populations and persons who have experienced homelessness, persons with a mental illness and/or substance use disorders.
- Ability to work as a team member as well as independently.
- Ability to effectively interact with co-workers and clients with diverse backgrounds.
- Bilingual English/Spanish preferred, but not required.
- Exceptional applicants will have experience facilitating support groups.
- Must adhere to agency's non-discrimination policies.

TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter explaining your interest in Quest Center, along with your resume and 2-3 references to jdacosta@quest-center.org. In the subject line, reference "HIV & Mental Health PSS". We are unable to accept telephone inquiries regarding this position. Quest Center for Integrative Health is an equal opportunity employer. ***People of color and those who identify as LGBTQ+ strongly encouraged to apply.***

This is a 40-hour (1.0 FTE) position that reports to the HIV Services Program Coordinator (HSPC)