



Title: Peer Specialist
FTE: Full-time, Non-Exempt
Report to: Clinical Supervisor/Program Director
Location: The Fresno Center – Fresno County

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Fresno Center (TFC) is a non-profit organization that was established in the past 30+ years serving the community of Fresno County. TFC has more than 20 different programs serving individuals and families. Six of our 20+ programs focus on mental health services (Horticultural Therapeutic Community Centers Program, Living Well Center, Holistic Cultural and Educational Wellness Center, and Neighborhood Resource Center, California Reducing Disparity Project, Central Valley Regional Center Latino and Southeast Asian Navigator Program, and Kaiser Community Benefits Program).

The Peer Specialist is an essential part of the team with lived experience who will provide mental health (MH) treatment to remove barriers to employment for families who are recipients of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Welfare-to-Work (WTW) benefits with mild to moderate mental health symptoms. This service ensures that families can receive ongoing, non-employment related mental health (MH) treatment, non-employment MH services, and/or case management services to ensure the client is linked to appropriate services. In turn, families and individuals will receive a meaningful transition from employment-related MH services to non-employment MH services, and/or resulting in clients engaging in their educational goals, employment opportunities, or other approved Welfare-to-Work activities; thus, resulting in clients' transitioning from welfare to work.

Peer Support Specialists are responsible for conducting support groups, monitoring, informing, supporting, assisting, and empowering consumers and their family/caregivers who directly or indirectly receive behavioral health services; facilitating peer-to-peer assistance as a part of a team setting; conducting outreach to consumers, families/caregivers and the community; and acting in a liaison role between consumers, families/caregivers and community service providers.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provides peer support and self-help services to Welfare-to-Work consumers and/or family members/caregivers of consumers as appropriate.
- Assists in the development and coordination of activities, programs, and resources which directly support consumers or family members/caregivers of consumers in achieving wellness and recovery goals.
- Assists consumers to develop self-advocacy, communication and empowerment skills.
- Conducts outreach to consumers or family members/caregivers and the community, and acts as a liaison between consumers, family members/caregivers and community services providers.
- Under immediate supervision, participates in resolving complaints as appropriate.

- Facilitates or assists in facilitating support or other groups for consumers or family members/caregivers of consumers.
- Under direction of clinical staff, monitors, informs, supports, assists and empower consumers or family members/caregivers who directly or indirectly receive behavioral health services.
- Prepares and supports consumers and family members/caregivers at staffing meetings and at a variety of other consumer centered activities (e.g. interviews, application process for housing, etc.).
- Provides transportation to support clients, on a need basis.
- Provided translation and interpretation to support clients on a need basis.
- Other relevant job duties.

KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Public and private agency services available for Welfare-to-Work consumers with behavioral health needs, such as schools, employment, social services, and other systems;
- Methods of effectively communicating with Welfare-to-Work consumers, family/caregivers, and the behavioral health treatment team;
- The needs and difficulties faced by ethnically diverse consumers or family members/caregivers of consumers of mental health services;
- Barriers to wellness and recovery and obstacles with access to services for those utilizing behavioral health services.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES TO:

- Understand and follow oral and written instructions;
- Work harmoniously with Welfare-to-Work consumers and co-workers;
- Establishes and maintains strong working relationships with a wide range of community agencies and organizations;
- Interviews and assists clients with diverse socio-economic backgrounds;
- Writes basic reports and maintain records;
- Effectively represents and advocates for the consumer within the community and mental health system;
- Effectively communicates the workings of the mental health system to Southeast Asian consumers or family members/caregivers of consumers;
- Attends mandatory clinical in-services/trainings, supervision, and regularly scheduled department/agency meetings.
- Understanding of and ability to provide culturally appropriate and sensitive services.
- Maintains confidentiality for all information.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Must have high school diploma or GED and some experiences in related health and social fields is preferred.
- ✓ Ability to speak Spanish and/or Hmong preferred.
- ✓ Experience in working with Welfare-to-Work consumers is a plus.
- ✓ Being competent in computer skills, such as Windows, excel, word processing, power point presentation, and other software programs is desired
- ✓ A valid driver's license required.

ESSENTIAL JOB REQUIREMENTS FOR BILINGUAL SKILL

- ✓ Communicates effectively with vulnerable populations.
- ✓ Assist with phone calls.

- ✓ Provides translations and interpretation on an as needed basis.
- ✓ Other translation tasks as required.

CLOSING DATE: TBA - *Position is contingent upon funding.*

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and three references **via email** to Dr. Cheng Vang at cheng.vang@fresnocenter.org, with Peer Specialist Position in the subject line, or you can pick up an application at The Fresno Center, 4879 E. Kings Canyon Road, Fresno, CA 93727. The Fresno Center values diversity and is an affirmative action employer. All interested individuals, including women, people of color, people over forty, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.