



Employment Opportunity

Mental Health PEER SPECIALIST

Part-Time

Rainbow Heights Club is a non-profit psychosocial support and advocacy program serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults living with major mental illness. We are currently seeking applicants for a part-time Peer Specialist. Rainbow Heights Club is located in downtown Brooklyn. Please visit our website - www.rainbowheights.org - for more information about our services and programs.

Rainbow Heights Club currently serves over 500 members, and has a staff of 14, including, peer specialists, student interns and volunteers. Our clients are lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender adult individuals who are living with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, developmental disabilities, and substance and alcohol abuse issues. Our work is extremely effective: 90% of the people who come to Rainbow Heights Club remain free of psychiatric hospitalization each year. We are seeking outstanding, motivated, knowledgeable, energetic, charismatic, and experienced people to help us expand our clinical team.

Position Description:

The successful candidate will be a self-starter who has demonstrated the ability to: facilitate support, activity, and/or psycho education groups, provide 1:1 interventions as needed, educate consumers around issues of mental wellness, and provide outreach aimed at reconnecting lapsed members and/or support individuals during periods of hospitalization. The Peer Specialist is expected to utilize their *first-hand experience* to teach and model symptom management, stress reduction and other coping strategies and assist consumers in the development of skills for empowerment and successful community living, including appropriate socialization, preparing meals, budgeting, food shopping, travel training, and securing entitlements.

The following are requirements for the position.

- Minimum high school graduate or GED *and* Peer Specialist training (e.g. Howie the Harp, NAMI, Mental Health Empowerment Project, etc) or CASAC training.
- Prior experience working with adults living with major mental illness including providing information to consumers through support groups and 1:1 counseling.
- Computer literacy, including data entry skills, and familiarity with Word and Excel
- Cook and/or clean at least one day during the week and help out in the kitchen as needed.
- A professional attitude while maintaining a flexible, reliable, tolerant, organized, trustworthy, supportive, and friendly mindset. You must be competent to work with people from many different racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
- Regardless of your sexual orientation or gender identity, you must be comfortable with your sexual orientation, and have the ability and willingness to discuss these topics with Rainbow Heights Club consumers.
- You must be comfortable with, knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.
- You must be comfortable with, knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues related to mental health and mental illness, including severe and persistent mental illness, risk reduction strategies and non-judgmental approaches to services provision, as well as substance abuse and recovery. You must be able to utilize your knowledge of mental health and mental illness to provide effective milieu and individual clinical interventions to club members.
- You must have the ability to be able to deescalate challenging situations.
- Bi-lingual (Spanish-speaking) highly desired
- All other related duties as assigned.

Qualified candidates should forward a COVER LETTER (indicating specific interest in the position and listing two recent professional references) and RESUME to jobs@rainbowheights.org or via fax at 718-852-5214. In your letter please clearly indicate your training history and reason for interest in a Peer Specialist position. We are an EOP. Persons from communities of color and persons living with disabilities (including psychiatric histories) are strongly encouraged to apply. No phone calls please. The club is located on Flatbush Ave. in Downtown Brooklyn opposite the #2, 3, 4 and 5 trains and 2 blocks from the M, N, Q and R trains.