



## **HIRING ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Title: Veteran Peer Support Specialist (Full-Time and Part-Time)**

**Position Summary:** Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Peer Support Specialists for a Peer-Run Respite for Veterans (PRR-V). The PRR-V will provide peer support services to veterans who are experiencing increased mental health, behavioral health, or substance use symptoms in a safe and welcoming residential environment. The Peer Support Specialists will be responsible for interacting with potential and welcomed guests at the PRR-V and provide caring, competent, and recovery-oriented support throughout their interactions with guests. Peer Support Specialists will engage in pre-arrival phone conversations with potential guests to determine the fitness of the PRR-V to meet the needs of the guest at that time, support guests during orientation to the PRR-V, provide peer support services in a residential environment, and engage in follow-up to gather feedback data from guests following their stay. Additionally, Peer Support Staff will be responsible for ensuring the PRR-V operates in a safe, sanitary, and welcoming environment.

Due to the mission of the PRR-V, candidates with experience as members of the United States Armed Forces are strongly preferred. Candidates must also be an individual with lived experience of mental health or substance use challenges, and must be a Certified Peer Specialist through the State of Wisconsin or Department of Veterans Affairs, or able to obtain certification within 2 years of hiring.

The Peer Support Specialists are available for both full-time and part-time positions, with most duties occurring in the residential facility where the PRR-V operates. The Peer Support Specialists report to the Project Manager. The Peer Support Specialists are expected to work collaboratively with other peers in the house to encourage and support the recovery capabilities and wellness of guests at the PRR-V. This may include conducting group activities, engaging one-on-one with guests, conflict-resolution, team-building, and motivational interviewing. Successful candidates will also have knowledge of resources and social services programs available to veterans and their families to assist with developing referral process for guests.

**Time and Compensation:** The full-time Peer Support Specialist has duties estimated at approximately 35-40 hours per week. The part-time Peer Support Specialist has duties

estimated at approximately 20-25 hours per week. Both positions start at \$16.50/hour, with benefits and PTO available.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Conduct pre-arrival interviews, orientation, and departure planning with guests at PRR-V.
- Provide recovery-oriented, person-centered peer support services to guests at PRR-V.
- Maintain a safe, sanitary, and welcoming environment at the PRR-V.
- Demonstrated ability to work with autonomy utilizing exceptional critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Recognize and respect the lived experience of all guests at the PRR-V.
- Attend regular meetings with Project Manager and Program Director as needed.
- Represent PRR-V positively and constructively in community engagement and networking opportunities.
- Inspire capabilities of peer companions to engage with guests and maintain relationships to improve guest recovery outcomes and follow-up contacts.

**Qualifications and Skills:**

- Candidates must identify as a person with lived experience of mental health or substance use challenges.
- Candidates with prior experience as a member of the United States Armed Forces **strongly preferred**.
- Candidates must have strong understanding of recovery principles and if not already a Certified Peer Specialist with the State of WI or DVA, must be able to obtain certification within 2 years.
- Bachelor's Degree in relevant field, or equal professional experience, strongly preferred.
- Candidates must have the ability to work collaboratively with a range of personality types and build a team toward a shared goal.
- Candidates should project the values of recovery and recognize the importance of culturally appropriate, consumer-driven, trauma-informed care.
- Candidates must pass a caregiver background check.

Interested candidates may send applications (resume and cover letter) to:

Brian Michel, Director of Prevention Services  
Mental Health America of Wisconsin  
600 W. Virginia Street, Ste. 502  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Applications may be sent electronically to [brian@mhawisconsin.org](mailto:brian@mhawisconsin.org). Please submit by 6/15/19.