Job Description

Job Title: Peer Specialist - Women’s Diversion Program

Reports to: Team Leader

Overview: The Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services (CASES), a NYC based alternative to incarceration agency seeks staff for a new gender-responsive diversion program for women at risk of jail sentences. We are a mission driven organization committed to the use of community sanctions that are fair, affordable, and consistent with public safety. The peer specialist provides mentoring, peer support and case management services to promote the successful participation of women in the diversion program. The peer works with participants in the community throughout the five boroughs, providing direct services including escorts to community services to facilitate access to entitlements and community treatment. Using a person-centered approach to engagement, mental illness, and gender-responsive services, supports women arrested for misdemeanor crimes reduce criminal recidivism, change behaviors, develop supportive healthy networks, and access community resources.

Responsibilities:

- Provide mentoring, peer support and case management services to women;
- Assess participant immediate needs, legal circumstances, and engagement needs to develop service plans and deliver needed community services;
- Assist participants in identifying treatment and life goals (housing, family, entitlement, vocational, social, cultural and recreational);
- Escort participants to appointments;
- Act as advocate and liaison for participants in securing housing, entitlements, treatment, medical care and other community services and support that are responsive to the needs of women;
- Provide individual supportive peer counseling as needed;
- Provide services in the community;
- Provide crisis intervention services;
- Involve family, significant others, and treatment providers in service provision;
- Complete progress notes, and significant data in accordance with charting policies;
• Provide culturally competent services in accordance with CASES policies and practice;
• Link participants to treatment, self-help, and community resources;
• Teach participants about their rights and instill hope in participants;
• Attend and prepare for supervision sessions;
• Use motivational interviewing techniques when providing case management services;
• Include problem-solving to address risk factors for criminal recidivism, personal safety and community living;
• Provide any other duties as required by supervisory staff.

Position entails a 35 hour a week commitment from Monday - Friday between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Qualifications:

• Graduate of a recognized peer specialist training program such as the Howie the Harp Peer Advocacy and Training Center Forensic Peer Specialist Program;
• High school degree with related work experience;
• Must be a mental health consumer with a history of involvement in the criminal justice system. As a peer in recovery from mental illness and substance abuse the peer must be willing to utilize recovery experience to engage and support alternatives to incarceration participants;
• Strong knowledge of wellness, recovery and self-help;
• Effective communication and written skills are essential;
• Proficiency with computer and databases;
• Bilingual skills in Spanish preferred.

Salary: Commensurate with experience

How to apply: E-mail cover letter and resume with salary history and requirements in Rich Text Format (RTF) or Word 2002 format to casesjobs@cases.org. Please list the title of the position you are applying for in the subject line. No phone calls please. Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

CASES is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment with CASES is based solely on qualifications and competence for a particular position, without regard to race, color, ethnic or national origin, age, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or marital, military, or citizenship status. We also actively recruit individuals with prior involvement in the criminal justice system.