

Peer Support Descriptions for Missouri Organizations

Truman Medical Centers Behavioral Health (TMC) Peer Supports is the only site that has had a peer specialist from the beginning of the grant period. The current peer specialist has been in the position for almost two years. The paid position started at 20 hours a week and now has increased to 24 hours a week. The Peer Specialist can be used as the first point of contact with the young person if deemed appropriate. Additionally, the Peer Specialist attends the HOPE and Youth MOVE meetings, and conducts outreach for the Program and Peer Specialist services during those council meetings or by appointment. The Peer Specialist works with ages 16 to 25 years.

TMC has had Family Support Providers (FSP) for the past 4 ½ years. Two FSPs are currently working with parents of children (ages 3-14) and transition aged youth/young adults (ages 15-25). One FSP is identified as our Family Support Specialist due to her clinical experience. She works 20 hours a week as an FSP and 20 hours a week as a QMHP while the other FSP works 28 hours a week. The FSPs can work/bill their services for youth up to age 25. They each assist the parents with coordination of FAITH, the parent's advisory council.

TMC administrative staff work towards making sure the peers support positions are respected throughout the center. They are contributing partners during TIP Solutions Review department staffing, and are included in any treatment team staffing regarding young people with whom they work. Efforts are made to ask staff to avoid using clinical jargon when possible while being sensitive and appreciative of layman terms that peers supports use.

Comprehensive Mental Health Services (CMH) Peer Supports has struggled to maintain consistency with the Peer Specialist and Family Support Specialist (FSP) positions. Each peer support lasted less than a year. Both positions are supervised by the Transition Team leader.

In November 2013, CMH hired a new Family Support Specialist. Qualifications for the FSP is that the person had to have a child in the mental health system and is supposed to be TIP trained. The FSP is also supposed to attend a three day Department of Mental Health training. The CSS identifies when there is a need for the FSP. This is a paid part-time position (up to 20 hours) and the hours are billable.

Qualifications for the Peer Specialist are similar to the FSP in that the person is supposed to be a recipient of mental health services. The position is currently unoccupied at CMH.

Swope Health Services Behavioral Health (SPBH) Peer Supports has recently hired a part-time Family Support Provider (FSP) in September 2013. The FSP is not a clinician and is only responsible for intervention duties. Care plans are done in collaboration with the FSP supervisor. SPBH is looking to expand the responsibilities of the FSP to include the task of reviewing progress notes to better serve the parent and youth. The Center is currently looking for financial sustainability to expand this position to a full time position.

SPBH continues to search for the "right" Peer Specialist for their transitioned aged youth and young adults.

ReDiscover Mental Health Services (ReDiscover) Peer Supports has always had an adult peer specialist however they have always been over 18 years old and not specific to the transition age range of 16-25 years old which is the stipulation made to follow the RECONNECT model. During the course of the pilot study ReDiscover has had a couple of Peer Specialist but they have not worked out well. The next one they hire will be hired part-time for about 5-10 hours and provide support within groups instead of individually. ReDiscover believes that the main criterion for their next peer specialist is that he/she is solid in recovery.

ReDiscover did not have a Family Support Provider (FSP) before the grant started. They currently have an FSP who is housed in the Children's Division and has been TIP trained. The FSP may only have about four or five young people within the transition age of 16-25 who she is working with their parents. The TLP young people seldom have parents that are engaged with their young person.