



Job Title:	Peer Support Worker – Links to Employment Program
Facility:	Canadian Mental Health Association
Reports To:	Manager of Integrated Adult Services
Bargaining Unit:	BCGEU
Wage:	Grid 21 / \$27.92
Status:	Regular Part-Time, 0.6 FTE

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Vernon & District Branch is a non-profit organization focused on promoting mental wellness in the community of Vernon and surrounding areas in the North Okanagan, and is part of a provincial and national federation. We believe in empowering individuals, groups, and communities in self-determination to enhance their mental health. CMHA facilitates access to the resources people require to improve mental health and community integration, build resilience, and support recovery from mental illness through building capacity, influencing public policy, providing services and support, and developing resources. We are committed to providing an environment free from prejudice, discrimination, and harassment. We strive to reflect the entire community in our volunteers and staff and promote equal access to our services.

JOB SUMMARY

In accordance with established vision, mission, focus, and values of the agency, the Peer Support Worker (PSW) shares their own knowledge and lived experience of mental illness/substance use to assist clients to achieve their stated employment, volunteer, or education related goals. The PSW will work with clients in recovery from substance use seeking competitive, paid employment in an integrated community setting. The successful candidate will be a well-organized individual who exhibits initiative, flexibility, sound judgement and good interpersonal skills. Duties include one-to-one (in person) work assisting clients in achieving goal(s), acquiring new skills, or linking with community resources; meeting and working in the community; travel (usually on transit); and communicating and documenting all relevant information to pertinent staff.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Demonstrated commitment to fostering an equitable, diverse, and inclusive team environment
- Under the direction of the Vocational Counsellor, the PSW will support clients in executing their wellness and vocational plans by developing and reaching goals such as:
 - Job searches
 - Interview skills
 - Finding route to job interview location
 - Building confidence
 - Navigating job websites and applications

- Helping with email and/or job site account set up
- Assisting with benefit navigation such as income assistance
- Other job-related supports as set out by Links team
- Establishes a dignifying and purposeful relationship with the client, contacting and getting to know the client as a unique individual, and clarifying the role of the Peer Support Worker with the client
- In accordance with pre-established Wellness or Vocational plans as defined by the Vocational Counsellor, assists the client with the development of life skills such as maintaining personal hygiene, meeting financial obligations, making and keeping appointments, and interpersonal skills by methods such as demonstrating and modeling appropriate actions
- Assists the client with community integration activities, and escorts clients to a comprehensive range of community services and opportunities
- Shares information with Links team members and partner organizations regarding the experience of individuals with mental illness/substance use
- Collaborates with the client, Links team and partner organizations to support the client to achieve individual goals, needs and situational requirements
- Assists the client towards self-managing all aspects of their life, including their mental illness, substance use and other health conditions by such methods as sharing information and lived experience perspective, practical problem-solving, and linkages with peer supports and advocacy groups
- Participates in program planning, development, evaluation, and quality improvement activities that facilitate team goal setting, by attending meetings and providing input
- Prepares and maintains written and computerized records and completes other program documentation, including writing progress notes, completing incident reports and on-call logs
- Conducts information sessions, facilitates workshops and peer learning groups and develops educational materials to meet clients' needs
- Maintains an awareness of current community resources including health care services, social, economic, recreational, employment, educational services and resources, and other agencies: use the information to assist the client to access services and problem solve with the client as required
- Completes First Aid/CPR, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training, and Suicide Awareness Training or any other training as deemed appropriate by the employer
- Represents the agency in a professional manner
- Attends monthly staff meetings, committee meetings, and others as required
- Other related duties as appropriate and required

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training & Experience

- Lived experience accessing mental health and addictions systems
- Peer Support Training considered an asset OR a combination of relevant education, training, and experience
- Worked as a Peer Support Worker within the last 3 years
- Two years recent related work experience with an emphasis on mental illness/substance use
Class 5 Drivers License considered as asset
- Thorough knowledge of mental health recovery principles
- Knowledge of community resources and programs

Skills & Abilities

- Demonstrated ability to foster an equitable and inclusive environment
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Ability to establish and maintain rapport and appropriate boundaries with clients and their families
- Ability to work independently and in cooperation with others
- Ability to evaluate and resolve problems efficiently and effectively
- Willing to facilitate or co-facilitate groups as needed
- Knowledge and skill in word processing and computer applications

CMHA Vernon is committed to building an inclusive workplace and community and seeks candidates who share our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Please send your resume to careers@cmhavernon.ca