



has an opportunity for a

Peer Support Specialist

Orange County

(Part-Time, 30 hours)

Schedule Varies

Western Youth Services is a leading expert in children's mental health and wellness solutions. As a hub of children's mental health in Orange County, we've been providing services and programs for our community for over 50 years. Our passionate and dedicated staff deliver services and programs that prevent, treat and heal our kids and families and increase their ability to live full and productive lives. If this sounds like you, and you meet the qualifications for this position, please send us your resume.

The Peer Support Specialist utilizes lived experience to foster hope, empowerment, and connection. They provide active, hands on, one-on-one strengths-based coaching and mentoring to youth and parents/caregivers to empower change, develop recovery strategies and plans, coping methods and rehabilitation strategies with the client and family.

Responsibilities:

- Engage clients through activities such as motivational conversations, recovery goal-setting, and system navigation coaching.
- Facilitate educational skill-building groups to teach coping strategies, self-advocacy, and recovery-focused habits.
- Lead therapeutic activities that promote wellness, self-awareness, and community living skills.
- Assist in, monitoring behavior and activities, reporting conflicts or deviations and liaising with the care team.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary team to ensure services are coordinated and delivered effectively.
- Document services provided in clear, accurate, and timely progress notes that align with Medi-Cal and agency standards.
- Participate in weekly supervision for professional growth and compliance with agency standards.
- Provide education, training, and direct interventions to youth and family members as appropriate while upholding strict confidentiality of client information.
- Travel required to community locations and client homes, as part of service delivery.
- This position includes productivity expectations, with an average of 45% of the time worked dedicated to billable client services.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in a mental health discipline or related field (Counseling, Psychology, Social Work, Human Services).

- Minimum two years' experience in client-related services in mental health. May substitute 30 semester units in counseling, psychology, or social work for one year of experience.
- Peer Support Specialist (PSS) training and certification required. (Training and certification can be part of the onboarding process.) At least one year of experience as a Peer Support Specialist preferred.
- Practices regular self-care and demonstrates knowledge of recovery resources, including community support groups. Experience as a parent or caregiver of a youth with emotional or behavioral challenges, or recovery challenges and has managed to successfully navigate the system and be positively impacted by support services.
- Familiarity with community resources, case management process, community outreach and program planning highly preferred.
- Awareness and demonstration of sensitivity to diverse socioeconomic and multicultural backgrounds.
- Commitment to WYS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) initiatives.
- Represent WYS with professionalism while working independently in field-based settings.
- Computer literate with Microsoft Office Suite, Outlook, Word, and clinical database skills.
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation required.
- Bilingual ability in Spanish, Vietnamese, Farsi, Arabic or Korean strongly preferred.

Salary:

- \$28.39 to \$29.81 hourly (The actual salary may vary based on experience, equity, market, and agency considerations).

Benefits:

WYS offers a comprehensive employee benefits package including:

- Medical, Dental, Vision
- Life Insurance, Long Term Disability
- 403(b) Retirement Incentive & Savings Plan

Western Youth Services' Mission: Advancing awareness, cultivating success, and strengthening communities through integrated mental health services for children, youth, and families.

Western Youth Services (WYS) is an Equal Opportunity Employer and seeks to recruit and retain a diverse workforce. WYS values and promotes a culture of inclusivity and belonging, one that embraces the contributions of richly diverse disciplines and perspectives of all employees and staff.