**BestCare Treatment Services**

**Position Description**

**Title:** Veteran’s Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist (VBHPSS)

**Program/Location:** Outpatient Community Mental Health-Madras

**Employment Status:** Full-Time Position

**FLSA Classification:** Non-Exempt (Hourly)

**Effective Date:** January 2019

**General Duties:** The Veteran’s Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist (VBHPSS) will provide peer mentor support to Jefferson County veterans who have been are engaged in behavioral health services at BestCare Treatment Services-Jefferson County Mental Health Program and/or the Veterans Administration. This includes veterans on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. The VBHPSS will also conduct veterans outreach services and participate in local veterans networking activities, including working with the Jefferson County Veterans Services program.

**Job Relationships:**

* Reports to: Madras Outpatient Program Director & Mental Health Clinical Supervisor-Adult Services
* Employees Supervised: None

**Language:** English

**Duties:**

Veterans Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist duties will largely consist of the following (not be limited to):

* Direct interactions with veterans who are assigned to behavioral health peer support services by community mental health and substance use disorders clinical staff, or the Jefferson County Veterans Service Officer.
* Telephone contacts, which include talking with Jefferson County veterans who need support and are struggling and may be prone toward self-harm/suicidality or prone to making bad decisions. Also, doing reminder calls to clients who are scheduled for assessments, groups, individual sessions, medication management appointments, and other BestCare services.
* Transportation: taking clients to some appointments, when appropriate, if approved by supervisor. This includes transporting veterans to veteran support groups.
* Helping monitor Veterans who are referred to behavioral health services at BestCare who are in need of support services; stay connected to them and ensure that they remain connected to Madras outpatient behavioral health services.
* Helping coordinate activities (i.e. biking, bowling, etc.) for veterans to help get them out in the community and less isolative (if applicable).
* Referrals to and assistance with accessing various services, when appropriate (i.e. Food Bank, LINC, primary care/medical services, community college, parenting, Social Security, etc.).
* Case management services, including documentation.
* Helping clients develop and connect to community-based pro-social or wellness-oriented recovery activities and veterans activities.
* Attending and participating in local veterans activities in Madras and Warm Springs.
* Attend and participate in local veterans trainings to include suicide prevention.
* Other duties as assigned.

The VBHPSS will work closely with their Supervisor(s) to design and implement mental health education and prevention strategies, with a huge emphasis on suicide prevention. They will maintain a personal recovery program, if appropriate, as well as model recovery-appropriate behavior.

**Minimum Requirements:**

1. Be a United States veteran.
2. Education: High School diploma or equivalent.
3. Familiarity with veterans/services as well as mental illness and substance abusing populations.
4. If in recovery from mental illness and/or substance abuse, must be able to demonstrate continuous sobriety under non-residential, independent living conditions for the immediate past two years.
5. Be certified or willing to get certified within the first 60 days of employment in Intentional Peer Support and be certified by the Oregon Health Authority/Office of Equity & Inclusion.
6. Valid Driver’s license and appropriate auto insurance.

**Skills & Abilities:**

1. Knowledge about veterans issues, local and regional resources, along with some basic understanding of mental illness and alcohol/drug addiction; community resources and recovery programs.
2. Communicate clearly, concisely and effectively orally and in writing
3. Work well with clients, co-workers, and community partners of diverse backgrounds.
4. Work independently and as a team member. Must have the ability to get along with co-workers.
5. Ability to function in crisis situations.
6. Knowledge about suicide prevention (local services, hotlines, etc.).

**Additional Duties:**

1. Participate and provide recovery mentor/peer support services to veterans living in Jefferson County, including the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

2. Methods for peer support services:

1. telephone contact with veterans
2. provide client transportation
3. provide peer support and recovery coaching for clients during activities
4. home visits under a limited basis (with high emphasis on scene security)
5. assist with securing housing and mental health housing, as needed.
6. Maintain case notes of client contact.

7. Any additional duties as assigned by the Program Director or Supervisor

**Physical Demands:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing this job, the employee is regularly required to reach with hands and arms. The employee is frequently required to stand, walk, and use hands to handle, feel or operate objects or controls. The employee is occasionally required to sit; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; and talk and hear. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to twenty (20) pounds. Specific visions abilities required by this job include close vision and the ability to adjust focus.

**Work Environment:**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position requires the employee to dress in a professional manner that meets the standards for professional employees in Deschutes County

THIS JOB DESCRIPTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE EMPLOYER AS THE NEEDS OF THE EMPLOYER AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB CHANGE.

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Employee Signature/Date Supervisor Signature/Date