



Division of Behavioral Health

BHS – SAC Team Peer Specialist Announcement

The Behavioral Health Services – Screening and Coordination (BHS-SAC) team is reimagining how we assist individuals who need timely linkages to mental health services in the community, by expanding our team to include Peers. We are looking for Peers who live with and successfully navigate their own mental health journey and recovery. We believe the added Peer positions will help speak directly to some of the experience's individuals are dealing with that will help them become more engaged in their own recovery. All Peer Specialists will receive training and support to help develop core competencies and eventually Peer certification.

The new BHS-SAC team will consist of a Mental Health Program Manager, Mental Health Program Coordinators, Senior Mental Health Counselors, Mental Health Counselors, a Senior Peer Specialist, Peer Specialists, Senior Office Assistants, an Administrative Officer I and Administrative Service Officer II.

We look forward to having you join us in reimagining and enhancing the services we provide to the community!

Job Title: Behavioral Health Peer Specialist (Peer)

Reports To: Mental Health Program Coordinator

Division: Behavioral Health Services

Location: Hybrid telework and office: 7001-A East Parkway, Sacramento

Status: Full-time, Permanent

Salary: \$ 46,103.04 - \$50,821.92 (+ differentials for language and longevity) Annual Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases based on labor relations agreements approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Schedule Options Include: M-F 8-5 with possible 9/80 work schedule option dependent on supervisor approval and business need.

Minimum Qualifications

Currently or previously a consumer of behavioral health services (such as mental health or substance use), or a parent or family member/caregiver of a behavioral health consumer.

Who Are We Looking For:

We are seeking team members who are passionate about sharing their lived experience and engaging individuals in working through barriers to timely access to services, including navigating the mental health system and providing case management. The Peer will be able to use their own experiences to relate to and empower individuals in a way that enables them to feel a sense of support and community. Respect, compassion, good boundaries, and a sense of humor are crucial characteristics for our future Peer Specialists. Under the direction of the Mental Health Program Coordinator, Peers will help support individuals in crisis, provide needed mental health resources and guidance and linkages to the appropriate service providers in a timely, consistent, and culturally sensitive manner. The following outlines some of the responsibilities of the role:

1. Conduct interviews using the state mandated screening tools to gather information to determine the level of services and types of services for which the individual is eligible. Provide additional

support via case management and transitioning individuals to resources, including the managed care plans.

2. Engaging individuals by sharing similar experiences and offering acceptance, understanding, education and validation, while also linking individuals to appropriate services, including helping them and their families navigate services needed (e.g., mental health, substance use prevention and treatment, safety planning, support groups).
3. Identifying wellness goals and providing emotional support.
4. De-escalating individuals who are at an elevated stress level.
5. Engaging other team members to ensure appropriate services, level of care and crisis management are provided when necessary.
6. Perform related duties and trainings as assigned.

Desired Knowledge Includes:

1. Awareness of available and appropriate community resources and services.
2. Alternative practices that support wellness and recovery.
3. Methods and techniques to communicate effectively with behavioral health individuals receiving services, families/caregivers, the community, and treatment/care teams.
4. Cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity.
5. Organizational skills.
6. Ability to navigate Electronic Health Records, telephone, voicemail, fax machines, copy machines and Microsoft Programs.

Ideal Candidates Will Have The Ability To:

1. Build upon individual, family and community strengths and skills.
2. Engage and connect with individuals struggling with mental health challenges.
3. Access and connect client with needed resources in the community (i.e. housing, etc.)
4. Collaborate with team members of varying levels of experience and skill.
5. Maintain confidentiality.
6. Communicate clearly and concisely, both verbally and in writing.
7. Ensure voice and choice are an active part of the process that respects individual rights.

Attractive benefits program includes:

Retirement Pension – Social Security and Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) Benefits Pension Plan. Plus 3% Deferred Compensation 401A County contribution.

Health Insurance – The County offers a variety of health plan options to fit yours and your family's needs.

Dental Insurance – The County provides a comprehensive dental benefit program for regular employees and their eligible dependents. This plan pays on a set fee schedule that varies by procedure.

Any amount over the fee schedule is the employee's responsibility. The yearly maximum is \$2,000 per person, not including orthodontia. The orthodontic benefit is 50% of covered charges with a lifetime maximum of \$1,000 per person.

Deferred Compensation – The County offers a 457B Deferred Compensation Program, which enables employees to save in a systemic way without paying income tax on either the payroll deduction or the earned interest, prior to withdrawal.

Life Insurance – Sacramento County provides a basic life insurance benefit to all eligible employees at no cost. Additional coverage may be purchased through payroll deduction.

Holidays – 14.5 paid holidays per year.

Vacation – 2 - 5 weeks of paid vacation, based upon length of service

Sick Leave – Equivalent to 15 days per year.

Flexible Spending Accounts – Employees may set aside funds on a pre-tax basis to pay for eligible medical and/or dependent care expenses.

Other Benefits – The County contributes \$25.00 per pay period into a Retiree Health Savings Plan.

If you are interested in this new and exciting opportunity and would like to be considered for an interview, please submit an application for the position of the Behavioral Health Peer Specialist with the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services to the following link:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sacramento>

In addition to completing a county application, interested applicants should submit the following items to Behavioral Health Program Coordinator, Melissa Saetern via email (Saeternme@sacounty.gov) or contact me at (916) 279-6308:

- ❖ Letter of Interest
- ❖ Resume
- ❖ Three Professional References.

Building Links to Success!!!

