
Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz
Community Connection
Pathways To Wellness
Peer Navigator

General Description

Pathways to Wellness (Pathways) is a pilot program that provides primary stabilization and recovery support for individuals with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders that are experiencing homelessness. Under direct supervision of the Pathways Program Coordinator, the Peer Navigator provides direct support to participants in the Pathways program. The Peer Navigator performs a variety of tasks including: linkage to community resources, recovery support, independent skill building and navigation of the mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice system. The Peer Navigator utilizes his/her recovery from mental illness to support and guide participants on their pathway to wellness.

Functions And Duties

Program Duties

- Assists participants in linkage to community resources including county behavioral health services, homeless services, criminal justice services, veterans services, 12-step recovery support, employment, education, and volunteerism
- Provides direct support to participants in group and individual counseling
- Facilitates recovery groups focused on independent skill building, relapse prevention, self-management, and coping skills
- Assists in day-to-day program operations

Operations and Systems

- Utilizes agency tools appropriately including scheduling, program and agency forms, and other tools as assigned by Supervisor
- Helps Program Coordinator in maintaining and enforcing program schedule
- Adheres to and helps enforce program guidelines

Collaboration

- Attends Pathways to Wellness team meetings
- Cooperates with agency partners and with mental health/social service agencies
- Attends Community Connection staff meetings
- Participates in at least one committee
- Other Collaboration Duties as Assigned

Communications

- Uses professional communication including verbal, non-verbal and written communication
- May use communication tools under close supervision
- Assists in providing content and stories about program successes
- Interacts professionally with a wide variety of professionals, partners, and community members
- Responds to inquiries from interested parties concerning program requirements and functions

Required Skills and Abilities

- Direct experience as a consumer of behavioral health services
- At least two years of sobriety and recovery
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate groups, one-to-one sessions, and activities
- Ability to form positive, productive, and collaborative relationships with co-workers, program participants, partnering agencies, and community members
- Skilled in handling sensitive information in a confidential manner
- Knowledgeable of behavioral health and community resources in Santa Cruz County

Plus Factors

- Bilingual in Spanish and English
- Experience facilitating groups
- Personal experience with homelessness

Employment Terms and Conditions

The Pathways Peer Navigator reports to the Pathways to Wellness Program Coordinator. Salary is \$12.30 – \$15.56 per hour depending on experience. This is a full-time position, with a maximum of 40 hours per week with benefits including paid vacation, sick leave, holiday pay, and Employee Assistance Program access. This position also requires mandated reporting and adherence to HIPAA and 42 C.F.R.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, or disability, medical condition, marital status, gender, sexual preference, age, veteran status, or any other non-merit factor unrelated to job duties.

Please send resumes and cover letters to Shawn Peterson: director@ccsantacruz.org