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## Peer Support Specialist – Assertive Community Treatment Team

Boyle McCauley Health Centre's Pathways to Housing Program in Edmonton ends homelessness for people who suffer from serious, persistent mental illness (such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder), usually co-occurring with addictions and medical and social problems, by:

- providing access to permanent independent housing without requiring treatment or sobriety as a precondition for housing; and
- providing outreach community support and treatment with a philosophy that is founded in the principles of consumer choice and harm reduction, using both evidence-based Best Practices and innovative approaches.

The Peer Support Specialist is part of an inter-disciplinary Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team that:

- provides comprehensive wrap-around treatment, support and rehabilitation/recovery services;
- uses a team case management model - all team members are required to remain current with all clients, their situation, recovery program and goals, and all treatment/recovery plans are developed as a team, with clients directing their care;
- spends approximately half of their time providing generalized supports that may not be part of their professional discipline, such as providing assistance with housing, life skills and tasks of daily living.

The belief that recovery is possible for all who experience psychiatric, traumatic and/or substance use challenges is fundamental to the practice of peer support. In addition to the team case management role shared by all members of the ACT Team, the Peer Support Specialist will work with Clients to provide emotional, social and practical supports, using his or her own personal life experiences with mental illness, addictions and/or homelessness/poverty as a reference. The Peer Support Specialist must be willing to share his or her relevant personal experience with Clients, in a manner tailored to build rapport and relationships, further Clients' treatment plans, and to demonstrate that there is hope for recovery.

This is a permanent, full-time position. Regular hours of work are 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday. However, some flexibility around actual work hours is required, and each Team Member is on 24/7 on-call, approximately 7 weeks per year. A reliable vehicle is required as Team Members drive daily for Client visits, most of which occur in Clients' homes or elsewhere in the community.

Salary range is \$42,477 to \$54,174 (\$21.77 to \$29.17 per hour) as well as a comprehensive health benefits package and generous vacation leave.

## **Qualification Requirements**

- Personal lived experience with sustained recovery regarding mental illness, addictions, and/or homelessness/poverty, is a requirement of this position
- Experience in one of more of following areas:
  - acute psychiatry and crisis intervention/emergency services;
  - mental health services in a community treatment setting;
  - Assertive Community Treatment or other inter-disciplinary teamwork;
  - working in addictions, concurrent disorders and/or Housing First; and/or
  - providing outreach services in a 'street/inner city/chronic homelessness' environment or equivalent.
- Knowledge of best practices in
  - working with people with complex co-occurring serious mental illness, addiction and medical issues;
  - client centered, strength-based recovery treatments/rehabilitation strategies;
  - Housing First/Pathway to Housing models;
  - Harm Reduction philosophy; and
  - Peer Support.
- Knowledge and practice in integrating cultural contexts into practice and service delivery.
- Responsible, organized and efficient; solid communication/literacy skills (written, oral, computer/technology)
- A continuous learner
- Valid driver's license and use of personal car are a must for this position.

**Please ensure your application outlines the nature of your lived experience with mental illness, addictions and/or homelessness/poverty as this is a requirement for the position.**

**Please apply by Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via email to:**

**Wendy Bouwman Oake, Program Director**  
[wendyb@pathwaystohousingedm.ca](mailto:wendyb@pathwaystohousingedm.ca)