

Connecticut Certified Recovery Specialist

Purpose of the class:

In a Mental Health or Addiction treatment program, this class uses specialized knowledge and information to provide counseling to patients or clients.

Supervision Received:

Works under the supervision of a health care professional of a higher grade.

Supervision Exercised:

May supervise Mental Health Assistants or employees of a lower grade

Examples of Duties:

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM: Provides counseling and support services to clients with mental illness and drug dependent clients; screens clients to determine eligibility for programs; assesses strengths, weaknesses and treatment needs; orients patients to treatment program; participates in treatment planning and individual and/or group counseling; responsible for case management activities; provides crisis intervention services in response to emotional and/or physical distress; makes referrals to outside programs for medical and/or psychological intervention; maintains reports and records of patient data; may escort patients; may consult with service providers to assure comprehensive integrated care;; performs related duties as required

Certified recovery specialists are current or former recipients of mental health services who provide direct services to consumers on community support teams, assertive community treatment teams, and emergency, outpatient or inpatient settings. They perform a range of tasks that are designed to assist consumers in regaining control over their own lives and control over their recovery processes. Recovery specialists model competence and the possibility of recovery. They assist consumers in developing the perspective and skills that facilitate recovery. Recovery Specialists must:

Minimum Qualifications Required:

1. Have a high school diploma or high school equivalent;
2. Have a valid driver's license with a good driving record
3. Work with the hiring agency around a background check

AND

4. Must be a current or former recipient of mental health services as defined by:
 - a. Having a significant mental health disorder, as defined by the DSM-R; and
 - b. Self-identifies as consumer; and
 - c. Has been in mental health treatment for at least (1) one consecutive year
 - d. Is certified through the Connecticut Certification Board as a Certified Recovery Specialist.

AND

5. Special Experience:

- a. (1) One year advocacy or advisory, governance experience or one year volunteer or employment experience that involved working with the public
- b. Recovery experience with demonstrated effort at self direction.

- c. Knowledge on how to support others in recovery;
- d. Certification from the CT. Certification Board., which has guaranteed exposure and training to supportive behaviors, psychiatric diagnoses, medications, community roles, team roles and responsibilities and basic knowledge of community supports.

6. Have the following skills or knowledge:

- a. Good verbal and written communication skills; and
- b. Good interpersonal skills; and
- c. Good problem solving skills;
- d. Ability to seek supervision when needed

Special Requirements

Incumbents in this class must retain the certification outlined above.

- 2. Individuals recovering from addiction to alcohol or drugs are required to have two (2) years of substance free time to be considered for a position in a substance abuse program..
For clients with recent DOC or Jail time there must be proof of good behavior and decrease of behaviors that are considered related to jail or prison time.
- 3. Incumbents in this class may be required to speak a foreign language or be fluent in American Sign Language.
- 4. Incumbents in this class may be required to possess and retain a valid driver's license.
- 5. Incumbents in this class may be required to travel throughout the areas they are assigned.

Physical Requirements

A medical exam may be required prior to appointment

Working Conditions

Incumbents in this class may be exposed to communicable and/or infectious diseases and risk of injury from assaultive and/or abusive patients.