



AdvocacyWorx
A program of HopeWorx Inc.

Peer Advocate

May 2024

AdvocacyWorx is seeking applicants for a Peer Advocate position that will provide mentorship, leadership, and facilitate training opportunities. The position requires the provision of individual advocacy services as well as the facilitation of our self-advocacy training.

AdvocacyWorx is a peer advocacy team working together to help individuals using behavioral health services to resolve problems, learn self-advocacy, and affect systems change.

The AdvocacyWorx Self-Advocacy Curriculum has been offered to peers, family members, vulnerable community members, and provider staff for more than 10 years at various locations throughout the county. More than 1,200 individuals have completed the training, which is held throughout the year.

Job Title: Peer Advocate

Department: AdvocacyWorx

Reports to: Program Director

Work hours: 37.5 hours a week, M-F during the hours of either 8:30-4:00 pm or 9:00-4:30 pm

Wage: Starting at \$18 an hour

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support individuals with advocating for themselves and resolving any issues related to community living, including problems with service providers, property owners, roommates, utility companies, benefits, etc.
- Provide resources and support to help individuals know their rights and self-advocate to resolve issues
- Assist in facilitating AdvocacyWorx' "Self-Advocacy Training"
- Participate with the advocacy team in weekly team meetings and in planning and creating goals and activities
- Provide written documentation on work completed with individuals
- Participate in committees, workgroups, trainings, and outreach with team members

Qualifications:



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Personal lived experience in the mental health system, as well as knowledge of human service systems and resources in Montgomery County. Minimum of a high school diploma or GED is required. Knowledge of Community Support Program (CSP) Principals and Trauma Informed Care is preferred.

Skills:

Excellent people/social skills, including the commitment to treating everyone with dignity and respect. Effective communication skills, both written and verbal, are required. Ability to problem-solve and work with others on a team as well as independently. Good organizational, time management, and computer skills are required. Ability to facilitate workshops and classes or a willingness to learn. Ability to share personal experience purposefully to help others. Ability to interact respectfully and collaboratively with all parties in the human service system. Self-aware and able to take responsibility for own mistakes, successes, weaknesses, and strengths, as well as being able and willing to seek support when needed.

Characteristics for effective advocacy:

- The ability to actively listen to someone else, without judging.
- The belief that the person in need truly knows what he/she needs, since each of us is the expert on ourselves.
- The ability and willingness to work with others in an organized and cooperative way toward a shared goal.
- The compassion to care about more than just one's own situation.
- Investing time and energy in efforts to make things better, rather than just criticizing "the way things are".
- The belief that he/she can have influence rather than waiting for someone else to "do something" to improve the system.
- The ability to problem solve and make appropriate referrals to needed services and supports
- Willingness to participate, in a meaningful way, with committees, workgroups, trainings, and outreach opportunities
- Attend weekly advocacy team meeting, HopeWorx team meeting, local CSP meetings and engage collaboratively with the Community Satisfaction Team (CST)

Send resume to Sue Shannon, Executive Director, at sshannon@hopeworxinc.org and Program Supervisor, Akilah Williams at awilliams@hopeworxinc.org