

Mental Health Association of Alameda County

Job announcement

Family Caregiver Outreach Specialist - PREP Program

The PREP Program: PREP stands for Prevention and Recovery in Early Psychosis; this program offers new outreach, education and early community-based treatment services to young adults aged 16-24 years who are experiencing the onset of first psychosis associated with serious mental illness, especially schizophrenia and schizophreniform illness. Three key issues prevent youth with the early symptoms of psychosis and their families from seeking help: 1) they fear the stigma of mental illness; 2) they don't understand which behaviors might be indicators of mental illness and which are just symptoms of the normal problems of adolescence; 3) they don't know where to seek help. The PREP Program outreach activities will focus on stigma reduction, the effectiveness of early intervention, ways to identify risk factors and early symptoms of psychosis and where to seek help.

Family Caregiver Outreach Specialist: Under the supervision and guidance of the Outreach Program Coordinator, the Family Caregiver Outreach Specialist is responsible for publicly promoting the PREP program, directly providing education to family members, providers, and the general public. Outreach will be conducted in collaboration with the other members of the PREP Partnership (Family Service Agency of San Francisco, East Bay Community Recovery Project and UCSF). In the PREP Program, "family" is understood to mean anyone responsible for, or closely involved in the treatment of, a person with mental illness, whether biologically related or not.

The Family Caregiver Outreach Specialist will visit community centers, schools, youth programs, shopping malls, churches, libraries, hospitals, cultural organizations etc. to make sure that 16-24 year olds (Transition Age Youth) and their families, especially those in under-served communities, are reached by the educational and stigma-reducing campaign. The Outreach Specialist will also use internet-based social media to educate about the signs and treatability of early onset psychosis and available services. Outreach Specialist activities will also ensure that primary care, emergency service, and other human and social service providers are reached with educational messages.

The Family Caregiver Outreach Specialist will work closely with the Family Education and Resource Center and will build and maintain working relationships with the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Office of Family Relations, NAMI affiliates and other relevant family support and advocacy groups. The Family Caregiver Outreach Specialist will document his/her outreach, educational and training efforts, and will be responsible for meeting benchmarks regarding these activities.

Desired Qualifications: Family Caregiver Outreach Specialist should have experience within a mental health system. This experience may have been gained through being a parent or caretaker of a family member receiving care. The Outreach Specialist must be able to communicate effectively with diverse groups, orally and in writing; work effectively with people with mental illness and their families; understand and maintain confidentiality of protected health information; be well organized; and manage time well.

(more)

Experience in facilitating groups, teaching adults, working in a team, and participating in interagency collaboration is desirable. Knowledge of mental illness, mental health systems of care, Alameda County community resources, and the concepts of wellness and recovery and family and consumer-driven care is an advantage. A willingness and ability to be trained in areas where knowledge is lacking is essential. Family members and applicants who are fluent in one of Alameda County's threshold languages in addition to English are strongly encouraged to apply.

Other Requirements:

Must have a motor vehicle available for daily use, possess a valid California driver license, carry vehicle liability insurance with at least \$100,000/\$300,000 limits, and have an acceptable motor vehicle report, as determined by the Mental Health Association's insurance broker.

Hours of Work: This is a full-time non-exempt position. Work hours will include some evenings and weekends.

Salary: \$2,833 per month (DOE). Employee benefits include vacation and sick leave and employer-paid health/dental insurance.

To apply for this position, fill out and return the job application form (available at www.mhaac.org) to PREP, Mental Health Association of Alameda County, 954 - 60th St., #10, Oakland, CA 94608 or fax your materials to 510-835-9232. Position will remain open until filled. If feasible, employment will begin in February.