

## **Mental Health Association of Alameda County**

### **Job Announcement**

#### **Young Adult 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.

**Young Adult Outreach Specialist:** Under the supervision and guidance of the Outreach Program Coordinator, the Young Adult Outreach Specialist is responsible for publicly promoting the PREP; directly providing education to people 16-24 years of age, family members, providers, and the general public. Outreach will be conducted in collaboration with the other members of the PREP Program Partnership (Family Service Agency of San Francisco, East Bay Community Recovery Project and University of California at San Francisco).

The Young Adult 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 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 Young Adult Outreach Specialist will build and maintain working relationships with the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Transition Age Youth Advisory Panel, the Office of Consumer Relations, the Pool of Consumer Champions, PEERS and other relevant support and advocacy groups. The Young Adult Outreach Specialist will document his/her outreach, educational and training efforts, and will be responsible for meeting benchmarks regarding these activities.

**Desired Qualifications:** Young Adult Outreach Specialist should have experience within a mental health system. This experience may have been gained through being a client receiving mental health 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.

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Experience in facilitating groups, 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 consumer and family-driven care is an advantage. A willingness and ability to be trained in areas where knowledge is lacking is essential. People with personal experience of mental illness 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 drivers license, carry vehicle liability insurance with at least \$100,000/\$300,000 limits, and have an acceptable motor vehicle report, as determined by 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](http://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.