

## CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALIST

### CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**SALARY RANGE: \$28.58 - \$37.39/HOUR + BENEFITS**

The Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services is currently accepting applications for the title of Certified Peer Specialist. This position is Full-Time at 35 hours per week and can be assigned to either the Jamestown or Dunkirk offices. A Certified Peer Support provides recovery-oriented, person, and family, centered peer support services within an integrated outpatient clinic licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). The Certified Peer Specialist facilitates individual and group peer sessions focused on recovery, wellness, resiliency, and community integration. The role promotes self-advocacy and meaningful participation in treatment and service decisions, educating individuals and families on available supports, rights, and recovery resources. Work is performed under the general supervision of a Clinic Director, or Program Director, with considerable independence and requires collaboration with multidisciplinary teams and community partners.

#### **Typical Work Activities:**

- Facilitate individual and group peer sessions on recovery, wellness, resiliency, and community integration;
- Promote self-advocacy and empower individuals to participate meaningfully in treatment and service decisions;
- Educate individuals and families on available supports, rights, and recovery resources;
- Participate actively in interdisciplinary team meetings and case discussions;
- Maintain timely, accurate, and recovery-focused case documentation in compliance with confidentiality, HIPAA, and OMH/OASAS standards;
- Assist individuals in accessing community resources including housing, employment, education, medical, and financial supports;
- Support participants in identifying strengths, setting goals, and developing self-directed recovery pathways;
- Provide support during transitions such as admissions, discharges, or level-of-care changes;
- Help individuals develop coping, problem-solving, and crisis-management skills;  
Facilitate development of daily living, educational, social, and vocational skills to promote empowerment and successful community living;
- Provide peer support during crises using trauma-informed, de-escalation, and recovery-based approaches;
- Assist individuals and families in developing and implementing crisis action or safety plans;  
Support the programs in on-scene or follow-up engagement;
- Performs other related duties as necessary.

Positions will be filled on a provisional basis pending the outcome of a future dated Civil Service examination for this title. Incumbents will be chosen from approved applications received.

#### **Chautauqua County offers a comprehensive benefits package which includes:**

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|---|-----------------------------|
| - Health Insurance (including Dental & Vision plan)       | - 13 Paid Holidays          |
| - Health Savings Account (partially funded by the County) | - Vacation & Sick Time      |
| - Flex Spending Account                                   | - Personal Days             |
| - NYSLERS Pension   | - NYS Deferred Compensation |
| - Eligible for Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness    | - Wellness Program          |

**Minimum Qualifications:** Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and possession of one or more of the following certifications at the time of application, appointment and during service in this classification  
**(MUST BE ATTACHED TO APPLICATION)**

New York State Certified Peer Specialist (CPS); and/or  
New York State Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA); and/or  
New York State Certified Youth Peer Advocate (CYPA); and/or  
New York State Certified Family Peer Advocate (CFPA).

Note: If the certification possessed at time of hire is Provisional, Standard or Professional Certification is to be obtained before the completion of a probationary period, and must be maintained throughout service in this classification.

#### **Additional Requirements:**

- A. Ability to meet the regular transportation requirements in carrying out fieldwork assignments at time of appointment and during service in this classification.
- B. Preference in appointment may be given to candidates who have experience providing peer support in outpatient, mobile crisis, or community behavioral health settings; or knowledge of trauma-informed, harm reduction, and person, and

family, centered approaches; or two or more years of active participation in peer support, advocacy, or recipient-run organizations.