

JOB OVERVIEW

JOB TITLE	Addict to Addict (A2A)/Erie County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) Peer Support Specialist
DEPARTMENT	Mental Health Peer Connection (MHPC)
LOCATION	Buffalo, N.Y.
DIRECT SUPERVISOR	Director, MHPC

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

Provide Rapid Peer Support services to individuals with substance use disorders and addiction issues, including those treated in Hospital Emergency rooms throughout Erie County for substance-use-related medical emergencies. This position also includes working twenty (20) hours per week at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility, providing in-custody peer support to individuals participating in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).

SPECIFIC DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Meet individuals admitted to the emergency room, for substance use disorders, and inform them about recovery and sharing personal recovery stories.
2. Responsible, when on call, to respond to calls from the answering service in a timely manner not to exceed a 24-hour time frame.
3. Provide Peer counseling to individuals to assist in making informed decisions regarding seeking help with substance use disorder.
4. Provide information and referral to individual and family supporters in navigating services available to prevent re-occurrence.
5. Be a liaison with hospital, treatment, family and community providers in linking individuals to proper support in the community, once discharged, avoiding future substance abuse episodes.
6. Provide immediate follow-through, once discharged from the hospital, in making initial contact with positive community and/or medical supports.
7. Provide peer support during times when traditional treatment services are unavailable, which includes after business hours, weekends, and some holidays.
8. Develop individual services plans/Independent Living plans with individuals seeking ongoing supports.
9. Provide in custody peer support by offering individual and group sessions, delivering recovery coaching, educating participants on MAT and harm-reduction practices, and facilitating Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART) Recovery groups.
10. Coordinate closely with medical, behavioral health, and custody staff to ensure continuity of care for individuals initiating or continuing MAT while incarcerated.
11. Engage individuals prior to release to establish recovery goals and support reentry planning related to treatment, housing, employment, benefits, and other needed services.
12. Facilitate warm handoffs to community-based MAT providers and recovery supports, including scheduling appointments and arranging referrals prior to release when possible.

13. Provide post release peer support through check-ins, and ongoing recovery coaching during the critical 30 to 90-day transition period, while maintaining coordination with community MAT and recovery organizations
14. Accurately document consumer services and required paperwork in Western New York Independent Living, Inc.'s (WNYIL's) Electronic Consumer Record (ECR) within two (2) working days of the date of service.
15. Facilitate at least two (2) Community Forums per month, throughout Erie County, in addressing the needs of dealing with substance use disorders.
16. Provide Naloxone training throughout the community.
17. Provide the peer perspective to professional providers and family in an effort to understand the perspective of the individual being served.
18. Be a liaison and advocate with existing medical and community supports.
19. Attend Agency's in-service training and staff meetings as well as any other Agency-related activities as instructed.
20. Participate in maintaining a neat, clean, and safe work environment.
21. Perform other job-related duties as assigned by the supervisor.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Must have a valid CRPA certification.
- Professional and life experience may be considered in lieu of, in full or part of academic credentials.

High school diploma or equivalent

OR

Associate Degree in social work, rehabilitation counseling, psychology or related human services field.

OR

Bachelor's Degree in social work, rehabilitation counseling, psychology or related human services field.

KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE (if required)

- High school diploma or equivalent requires three (3) years of work experience with disabled adults.
- Associate degree requires two (2) years of work experience with disabled adults.
- Bachelor's degree requires one (1) year work experience with disabled adults.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Must pass a background check conducted by the Erie County Sheriff's Office.
- The applicant must be a current or former consumer of behavioral health services.
- Must have intermediate level of knowledge of computers including the use of Excel spreadsheets, databases, word processing and networks.
- Perform in a professional, conscientious, and efficient manner for the purpose of ensuring a better quality of life for persons with disabilities.

WORKING CONDITIONS

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Office/ Community/ Correctional Facility

PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF THE JOB	Sitting for extended periods of time. Occasional lifting of not more than 15 pounds.
HOURS / SHIFTS	37.5 – 40 hours per week. M – F 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Overtime is rarely required.
CLASSIFICATION	Full-time, salary, non-exempt, Professional staff. Salary: \$47,800 - \$49,800
BENEFITS	Agency provided group health insurance. Vision, dental, life, and supplemental insurances available. PTO and paid holiday package. 403(b) retirement with Agency match. Employee Assistance Program
OTHER	Western New York Independent Living, Inc. values our employee safety and follows all recommended NYS required Infectious Disease Prevention Protocols. Western New York Independent Living, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Reasonable accommodations will be made for people with disabilities. Western New York Independent Living, Inc. is a scent-free agency.
JOB POSTING	
Closing Date: August 20th, 2026 Cover Letter and Resume Required to: Human Resources Dept. WNY Independent Living Inc. 3108 Main St. Buffalo, N.Y. 14214 Employment@wnyil.org	