



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Peer Support Specialist for the Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative

Title: Peer Support Specialist
Program: Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative
Classification: Full Time, with evening & weekend hours as needed to implement project
Supervisor: Care Navigation Supervisor, Atlanta/Fulton County PAD

About the Position & Initiative:

The Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion (PAD) Initiative seeks an experienced **Peer Support Specialist** who feels passionate about redirecting people out of the criminal justice system and connecting them to the services that can transform their lives and support their path to wellness.

The primary goal of the PAD Initiative is to redirect people out of the criminal justice system who would be better served by social services and other community based supports. Specially trained police officers who have probable cause to make an arrest and believe that the offense is primarily due to mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, or extreme poverty can offer diversion to the Initiative instead of arrest. The hallmark of the program will be intensive care navigation that offers client centered, strength-based case management with a housing first and harm reduction approach.

The primary responsibility of the **Peer Support Specialist** will be to develop supportive relationships with PAD participants; work closely with Care Navigators to assist participants with navigating services; and build a positive rapport in the community through outreach.

The scheduled hours are from 11am – 9pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 8pm – Saturday 6am (overnight). This schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the program, but will likely always include some evening and weekend hours. *Please only apply if you are able to work during these scheduled hours.*

Responsibilities:

- Engages persons in the community, during outreach periods to provide information regarding partner resources;
- Accompany Care Navigators on diversion referral interviews during diversion hours. Must meet police officers at the scene within 30 minutes;
- Assist with initial screening in the field and support potential PAD participants at time of diverted arrest;
- Work as a part of the Care Navigation team to provide case management support;
- Provide assistance with increasing participant's awareness of available resources and assist them in accessing these services;
- Serve as advocate and mentor to PAD participants, as appropriate;
- Work with team to increase and ensure cultural competency (including racial, cultural, gender identity and sexual orientation) within the community;
- Attend meetings regarding participants and the Initiative;

- Maintain confidentiality and respect for PAD participants or potential participants related to all personal information, including but not limited to physical and mental health status, gender identity, drug usage, conviction or arrest history, and immigrant status;
- Commit to ongoing personal, professional, and team leadership development.

Qualifications:

- Demonstrated leadership or experience working in support of people who are experiencing homelessness, substance addiction, mental health issues, and/or extreme poverty, preferably in the Metro Atlanta area;
- Experience working with formerly incarcerated people, trans people, and LGBTQ people to navigate care systems;
- Understanding of and commitment to the harm reduction philosophy and a non-judgmental approach to people's wellness;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to remain calm under pressure and diplomatic in tense situations;
- Lived experience as a formerly incarcerated person, sex worker, and/or a person in substance use or mental health recovery a big plus;
- Certified Peer Specialist Certification (CPSC/GaCPS) or Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES) a big plus;
- Current valid Georgia driver's license.

Salary Range: \$35,000-\$40,000 commensurate with experience plus benefits. Professional development opportunities available including training and mentoring in harm reduction and other PAD social service principles.

The Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without *regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, qualified handicap or disabled status. We are committed to providing a workplace free of any discrimination or harassment.* People of color, the TLGBQ community, and/or individuals who have personal experience with drug use, sex work, HIV, and/or incarceration are strongly encouraged to apply.

To apply, submit the following application documents to info@prearrestdiversion.org by Friday, June 9th, 2017 (please put "PAD Peer Specialist" and your name in the subject field):

1. A statement about your experience and interest
2. A resume
3. Two references