

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Baltimore City
Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
Peer Recovery Specialist

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) seeks two Board Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) to work as essential team members in Baltimore City, Maryland. OPD provides superior representation to indigent clients of all ages throughout the state of Maryland. The Agency's vision is for *Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All* and we are committed to the core values of a culture of excellence, client-centered representation, tenacious advocacy, and unity as a team in achieving the Agency's mission. This is a grant funded position that will run through December, 2021.

OVERVIEW:

The goal of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) Grant is to reduce the prevalence of people with mental health disorders who are detained in the Baltimore City jail for nonviolent offenses by increasing their access to community-based behavioral health and support services. The Peer Recovery Specialists, working in conjunction with the Grant Coordinator and the Grant Social Worker, will assist clients by providing referrals, case management support, and support through shared personal experiences.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work alongside the Grant Social Worker to refer participants to community-based services and encourage compliance with treatment plan.
- Help clients navigate social service systems in the community to fulfill program expectations.
- Provide case management services, including completing applications and referral forms to obtain appropriate services for clients.
- Function as a mentor and role model to clients based on shared lived experience.
- Assist clients in developing empowerment skills and combatting stigma through self-advocacy.
- Request specific and appropriate information about the client from involved treatment providers to promote continuity of care and program success.
- Act as an integral team member to the larger OPD planning group and provide expertise from a behavioral health consumer perspective concerning clients' experiences with behavioral health, criminal justice, and social service agencies, as well as client's responses to, and opinions of, treatment and experiences of recovery.

REQUIREMENTS:

- High school diploma or GED equivalent
- Certified by the Maryland Addiction and Behavioral Health Professionals Certification Board (MABPCB) as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) or eligible for certification within 12 months
- Lived experience with mental health and/or substance use disorders
- Familiarity with Baltimore City (public transportation system, social services organizations, public behavioral health system, etc.)
- Ability to engage people based on their own needs in various settings
- Ability to build and maintain professional helping relationships
- Ability to relate and communicate with diverse populations and groups

TO APPLY:

If interested in becoming a valued team member and working towards just outcomes for indigent individuals, please submit a: (1) Cover Letter and (2) Resume via email to kgorman@opd.state.md.us or mail items to the attention of: Kate Gorman, Grant Coordinator, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, 6 St. Paul Street, Suite 1400, Baltimore, MD 21202.

CLOSING DATE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to building a culturally diverse staff and strongly encourage people historically underrepresented in the practice of law to apply.