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North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC

Section 1596 – Clinical: Peer Bridger Program

Authorizing Source:

Approved by: Executive Director

Date: 12/17/2019

Signature:

POLICY # 1596.00

SUBJECT: PEER BRIDGER PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To provide support and oversight to the North Sound Peer Bridgers assigned to Western State Hospital (WSH).

POLICY

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) will monitor the contract for the North Sound Peer Bridgers assigned to WSH. The North Sound Peer Bridgers will coordinate with the North Sound BH-ASO designee regarding referrals and services provided.

PROCEDURES

The Peer Bridger Program serves patients who are at WSH, are in long term hospital beds in the community or who have recently discharged to the community from those facilities. Participation in the program is voluntary. The Peer Bridger will begin meeting with the participants while at WSH or a long-term treatment bed and can continue to meet with the participant for up to 120 days post discharge. Additional time can be granted on an as needed basis by submitting a request to the North Sound BH-ASO. As identified in the North Sound BH-ASO Supplemental Provider Service Guide (SPSG), *the Peer Bridger is not a case manager, discharge planner or a crisis worker. However, the Peer Bridger can bring the participant's perspective into the provision of those services.*

North Sound BH-ASO will establish regular meetings with the North Sound Peer Bridgers to review potential referrals and program needs. The North Sound BH-ASO will work collaboratively with the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) regarding referrals to the Peer Bridger team to ensure equitable access to their services. Peer Bridgers will have an average caseload of 6-12 participants.

Peer Bridgers will be stationed at WSH two days per week (can be adjusted as needed). Peer Bridgers will comply with all regulations and procedures of WSH and complete all training requirements prior to meeting with participants at the hospital. These training requirements have been identified as:

1. Participation in statewide Peer Bridger Orientation and training;
2. Participation in a 32-hour orientation at WSH or Eastern State Hospital (ESH); and
3. Participation in ESH or WSH Specialized Orientation

Peer Bridgers will follow the program duties as outlined in the North Sound BH-ASO SPSG. Referrals to the Peer Bridger Program can be made by the North Sound BH-ASO WSH Liaison, MCO liaisons, WSH staff or by patient self-referral.

Reporting

As outlined in the North Sound BH-ASO SPSG, the Peer Bridger team, including Peer Bridger supervisor, will:

1. Participate in monthly, statewide Peer Bridger Program administrative support conference calls.
2. Participate in bi-annual Peer Bridger Training events scheduled by the Health Care Authority (HCA).
3. Ensure that Peer Bridgers complete tracking logs on a monthly basis and submit logs to HCA via secured or encrypted emails.
4. Coordinate and communicate Peer Bridger team schedules for participating at the hospital with the Peer Bridger coordinator.

ATTACHMENTS

None