**Job Description**

**Title:** Youth Peer Support Specialist

**Description:** (Name of agency) is seeking to hire a Youth Peer Support Specialist (YPSS) to expand youth-driven wraparound services for young people, increase youth engagement, and expand capacity for youth voice across our agency and community.

The YPSS serves a unique role on the team. Youth Peer Support Specialists are not clinicians, but work alongside, complement, and enhance the work of the clinical team. By drawing on their own lived experience navigating behavioral health systems can inspire hope and model relationships built on respect, trust, and validation. By sharing their own lived experience, youth peers help youth to enhance wellness, create strategies for self-empowerment, and take concrete steps towards building fulfilling, self-determined lives for themselves. Walking alongside the youth on their journey, the YPSS is an ally and advocate for young people. This mutuality – often called “peerness” promotes connection, builds rapport, and inspires hope.

**Essential Responsibilities:**

1. Provide support to youth who choose to engage with the youth peer support specialist.
2. Develop authentic, meaningful relationships with individuals and families through empathy, sharing experiences, listening, and collaborating with genuine curiosity

and interest.

1. Identify and actively share information about community resources that are available

to youth.

1. Assist and support youth to identify and build community and natural supports.
2. Promote self-advocacy by assisting youth in articulating their personal goals and desires.
3. Support the team and agency in partnering with and engaging youth.
4. Maintain open and frequent communication with the team, including reporting safety and other concerns to the team.
5. Attend, participate, develop, and support youth engagement in youth advisory councils, governance meetings, workgroups, statewide youth leadership meetings, and other relevant meetings that inform and/or may impact decisions related to services and supports available to youth and young adults.
6. Participate in regularly scheduled supervision.
7. Collaborate with the team to ensure that services and agency culture are youth-driven, youth-friendly, culturally and linguistically competent, trauma-informed, and responsive to the needs of the youth who are served.
8. Develop a network of colleagues to support youth voice and coordination of care.
9. Serve as the primary point of contact for the Texas System of Care to provide technical assistance and other support related to youth engagement.
10. Job responsibilities may frequently require travel across the community and work inside the family home, schools, and other community settings. There may also be occasional travel outside of the region.

**Qualifications and Requirements:**

The Youth Peer Support Specialist should

* Have personal lived experience navigating behavioral health systems.
* Demonstrate strong interpersonal communications skills and the ability to empathize, with, relate to and effectively partner with youth and team members.
* Demonstrate a strong understanding of boundaries and principles of self-care.
* Have the willingness to disclose their lived experience, where appropriate, for the purpose of empowerment
* Possess a High School Diploma or GED, reliable transportation, and a

valid driver’s license.

* Be willing and able to work flexible hours that are convenient for youth and families.
* Other HR requirements as are needed and appropriate to the positon.

**Preferred Qualifications**

The Youth Peer Support Specialist will preferably have

* An understanding of the local community, including resources that are available.
* Experience effectively collaborating, partnering, and advocating alongside youth.

.