



Job Posting: Mental Health Peer Policy Fellow at MHA of Greater Houston

Overview

The Mental Health Peer Policy Fellowship is a ***two-year grant funded position (beginning July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2026)*** that will play a pivotal role in supporting Mental Health America of Greater Houston's focus on state-level efforts to enhance the mental health and well-being of children, youth, and families in Texas, and other areas of focus. The fellow will engage in advocacy and policy work aimed at fostering collaboration and effecting positive change within the mental health and substance use policy landscape. This position offers a unique opportunity for an individual with lived experience in navigating mental health and/or substance use services to contribute to policy development and advocacy initiatives.

Description of Duties and Responsibilities

1. Collaborate with organizations centered on lived experience to enhance their capacity for effective advocacy on mental health and/or substance use policy.
2. Engage in advocacy efforts aimed at improving mental health and well-being policies for children, youth, and families in Texas.
3. Utilize personal or familial lived experience to inform and shape policy discussions and advocacy strategies.
4. Participate in collaborative initiatives to strengthen the effectiveness of the mental health and substance use policy advocacy community in Texas.
5. Contribute to the development and implementation of advocacy campaigns, including but not limited to, public awareness campaigns, legislative advocacy, and community organizing efforts.
6. Represent MHAGH and its values in external engagements with policymakers, stakeholders, and community partners.
7. Stay informed about relevant legislative and policy developments at the state level and provide insights and recommendations to inform the foundation's advocacy priorities.
8. Conduct issue-based research, with a focus on legislation, regulations, budget, and administrative policy issues.
9. Participate in the Hogg Mental Health Policy Academy and other training and professional development as determined appropriate to the position.
10. Contribute to the development, execution, operationalizing of specific advocacy strategies to advance local, state, federal and administrative policies in support of MHAGH's mission and vision.
11. Assist in the development and drafting of bills, policy briefs, legislative documents, and other external deliverables.
12. Track, evaluate, and prepare timely reports around local, state, and federal policy activities relevant to MHAGH priorities.
13. Communicate with MHAGH staff regarding public policy- and advocacy-driven initiatives.
14. Represent Mental Health America of Greater Houston at community meetings, symposia, hearings and other events.
15. Support the development and strengthening of relationships with allies and influencers, both grassroots and grassroots constituencies.



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16. Participate in consensus- and coalition-building opportunities as assigned.

17. Other duties needed to help realize our Vision, fulfill our Mission, and abide by our Organization's Values.

Qualifications for Position

Minimum requirements for this position include a High School Diploma, a minimum of two years of relevant recent experience (paid or volunteer) and personal or familial experience navigating mental health and/or substance use services within various systems in Texas (e.g., state hospitals, public mental health system, child welfare, schools, juvenile justice, etc.); college degree, or peer specialist/recovery coach/family partner certification preferred;

Supervisory Relationships

This position reports to the Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs.

Skills and Knowledge

- Demonstrated commitment to advocating for mental health and well-being policies, with a focus on children, youth, and families.
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to effectively articulate personal experiences and advocate for policy change.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including individuals with different backgrounds and perspectives.
- Capacity for flexibility in adapting to evolving priorities and tasks within the policy and advocacy space.
- Understanding of legislative and policy processes, with a willingness to engage in policy analysis and advocacy activities.
- Strong communication skills, both oral and written; experience working within organizational teams and external constituencies.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills; Able to facilitate communication and collaboration with a diverse group of community members, policy makers, organizational partners and volunteers to achieve goals.
- Flexibility and adaptability; demonstrated ability to adjust to changing priorities and political/fiscal climates.
- Capable of independently managing time and the tasks associated with a fast-paced environment.
- High level competence in Microsoft Office (especially Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint).

Travel

Travel is primarily local during the business day, approximately 30% of the time. Travel will consist of trips to Austin, TX, and one or more overnight trips within Texas, and Washington, D.C.

Hours per day or week

This is a full-time position. Days and hours of work are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; flexibility to accommodate early morning and late evening activities.



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Submit cover letter and resume to careers@mhahouston.org. Include **“Mental Health Peer Policy Fellow”** in Subject Line.

Candidates are encouraged to visit our website at mhahouston.org to learn more about our organization.

MHA of Greater Houston is an equal opportunity employer celebrating diversity representing a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. We are committed to creating an equitable and inclusive environment for all employees. Employment is decided based on qualifications, merit, and business need.