



**Canadian Mental  
Health Association**  
North and West Vancouver  
*Mental health for all*

**North and West Vancouver Branch**  
**300-1835 Lonsdale Avenue**  
**North Vancouver, British Columbia V7M 2J8**  
**Phone: 604.987.6959 Fax: 604.980.0336**

## **Peer Navigator**

**Sunshine Coast Overdose Outreach Team**

**(21 hrs/wk) 3 – month contract position**

## **CMHA NORTH AND WEST VANCOUVER**

*Our vision: Mentally healthy people in a healthy society*

### **Position Summary**

The Peer Navigator works as part of an interdisciplinary Overdose Outreach Team to provide direct support in the community to individuals and their families with accessing opioid agonist therapy and related support services. The Peer Navigator provides support by sharing their own lived experience and service recipient knowledge of the mental health & addiction support system to assist clients as they seek to successfully access and navigate community supports and resources, and work to self-identify needs.

**This position is an exciting collaboration between CMHA North & West Vancouver and Mental Health and Substance Use Services in the Lower Sunshine Coast**

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Establishes a dignifying and purposeful relationship with the client, and clarifies the role of the Peer Navigator
- Assists clients to access opioid agonist therapy and related support services
- Supports clients to advocate for themselves
- Assists clients in obtaining information and creates linkages to other community resources and programs
- Liaises and works with community resources and healthcare providers
- Attends meetings and participates in patient care planning and co-ordination as needed
- Maintains an accurate record of peer navigation activities and provide regular reports.
- Maintains an awareness of current community resources and utilizes the information to assist the client to access services and problem solve with the client as required
- Other related duties as appropriate and required

### **General Duties:**

- Work alongside the Overdose Outreach Team members to connect with and directly support clients in the community
- Attends regular staff meetings, committee meetings and others as required
- Submits regular activity reports, timesheets, expense forms, etc. as required
- Represent the agencies in a professional manner in the community



#### Skills and Abilities:

- **The primary personal attribute necessary to provide quality peer support is lived experience with substance use/addiction, along with the experience of finding a path of recovery.**
- Demonstrated ability to work with marginalized and culturally diverse populations including those with substance use issues and mental illness.
- Ability to engage clients and build rapport, as well as maintain appropriate boundaries
- Thorough knowledge of recovery, harm reduction principles, and trauma-informed practice
- Experience in crisis prevention/intervention and conflict resolution/de-escalation
- A working knowledge and familiarity with health and social service programs on the lower Sunshine Coast
- An understanding and the ability to apply anti-oppression practice
- Ability to observe and recognize changes in clients
- Ability to promote positive change and independence
- Proven ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment as well as capacity to work in partnership with others
- Physical ability to carry out the duties of the position

#### Qualifications

- **Lived experience of accessing addiction and mental health services**
- Education or training in peer support, mental health & addictions, or community social services.
- Recent related work experience with an emphasis on substance use recovery.
- First Aid/CPR (required)
- Naloxone administration training or willingness to get
- Mental Health First Aid, Non-violent Crisis Intervention and Trauma-informed care training are assets
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Ability to work independently and organize, prioritize, analyze and problem solve
- Working knowledge of MS Office applications (Word, Excel, Outlook) and the internet

**A criminal record check for working with vulnerable sectors is required upon hiring.**

#### Hours of Work and Considerations

Reports to directly to the Clinical Coordinator MHSU Inpatient and Outpatient and reports operationally to CMHA Assistant Program Manager

Hours of Work: 9 am – 4:30 pm



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**We are an equity employer and encourage applicants from women, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, people of all sexual orientation and genders and others who may contribute to our further diversification.**

**The candidate must be a current resident of the Sunshine Coast.**

*This posting does not list all the duties of the position, nor does it fully detail the required skills, knowledge and abilities, licenses and certificates required of candidates*

**How to Apply:**

Please submit a cover letter and resume detailing your experience and qualifications to:  
elaina.moss@cmha.bc.ca. **Applications without a cover letter will not be considered.**