



To volunteer, please submit your resume to hr@paintedbrain.org with the subject line: Peer Clinical Volunteer Inquiry.

Painted Brain Peer Support Volunteer - Clinical Department (In-person)

Supervisor: Dave Leon, LCSW

Last Revision Date: 8/2023

Organization Background

The mission of Painted Brain is to create lasting community-based solutions to mental health challenges and the impact of social injustice through arts, advocacy, and enterprise. Painted Brain is an innovative peer-run mental health art and tech-forward organization that uses a peer model focused on recovery. A peer is a person who self-identifies as having experience with recovery from mental illness or substance use disorder, either as a consumer or as a parent, caregiver, or family member. Our primary focus over the years has always been using the arts to help people learn to interact socially and effectively while navigating the impacts of trauma, psychosis, depression, autism, anxiety, and other mental health and/or substance use challenges/experiences.

Volunteer Summary

Under the supervision of a PB Program Manager, the Peer Support Volunteer will be given opportunities for real-life experience within the peer support specialization and the core competencies they have learned in Painted Brain's Medi-Cal Peer Specialist Certification Training (PSCT) program. Those who have graduated from Painted Brain's PSCT program with interest in practical experience related to working with adults facing a variety of mental health challenges in community, agency and outreach settings alongside a multidisciplinary team are eligible to be placed in the Painted Brain Clinical Department (as availability permits). Peer Support Volunteers will develop skills in group leadership and support through in-person direct experience, coleading art group activities for the clients of both Painted Brain and partner agencies. Volunteers will use many of the 17 Core Competencies learned from the PSCT program throughout the volunteer experience. Volunteers will gain experience in a supportive, helpful, and respectful environment, keeping peer principles and peer values central to the experience.



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Responsibilities & Functions

- A minimum of four (4) hours weekly to a maximum of fifteen (15) hours for six (6) months of regular and predictable attendance via Zoom and/ or in-person is expected for volunteer learning and the peer support experience
- One (1) hour weekly volunteer supervision check-ins (Mondays AM or PM)
- At the Community Center, the Peer Support Volunteers will help support milieu management, which means to work to maintain a positive productive and affirming attitude within the space and between participants.
- Groups take place on-site at the Painted Brain Community Center, as well as at partner agencies throughout Los Angeles and generally last 90 minutes per session.
- All Peer Support Volunteer activities will be in assistance to PB staff leading the program services and activities
- Peer Support Volunteer responsibilities in this department may involve:
 - Group leadership, milieu management and individual support including leading community meetings, which would involve introductions, check-ins, and agenda setting
 - Assisting with arts activities through instruction and demonstration; supporting communication among participants: expressing and processing emotions, assisting with problem solving and conflict resolution
- Other learning and support activities may include:
 - Preparation and follow-up on paperwork skills including sign-in sheets, writing notes to reflect the experience of the group participants, promotion of Painted Brain programming for recruitment purposes
- Assist in implementing PB programs for mental health and substance use awareness and advocacy in at least one area of focus
- Serve as a role model of recovery and resiliency for others in the Peer Support recovery community
- Must follow the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification - Code of Ethics

Minimum Qualifications

- Must have graduated from the Painted Brain 80 hour Medi-Cal Peer Specialist Certification Training program with a certificate of completion as proof of graduation.
- Must exhibit basic knowledge of the 17 Core Competencies and Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics, as well as a willingness to adhere to these principles.



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Other Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- We encourage applicants to complete the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification (CMPSS) exam through CalMHSA in the State of California before beginning volunteer placement
- Have knowledge of and experience working with peers, ethnic minorities, impoverished, and under-served communities and groups
- Have proficient writing and oral communication skills (may request writing sample)
- Have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to relate to staff from various cultures, languages, and educational backgrounds
- Must understand the basics of peer-centered peer support and how to provide to those seeking support
- Must be culturally humble with a readiness to seek out additional education when needed.

Environmental Conditions

The environment for this position is primarily in-person, and it is recommended that the volunteer have access to an appropriate workspace. This may require the use of functional headphones and microphone if a quiet and private location cannot be utilized. Sometimes in-person gatherings may be scheduled, but in most cases there will be a web conferencing option to join.