



DC JAIL AND PRISON ADVOCACY PROJECT
VICTIM SERVICES PEER NAVIGATOR JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services (DRDC), a nonprofit protection and advocacy agency that advances the rights of DC residents with disabilities, seeks a Victim Services (VS) Peer Navigator for its DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project. The VS Peer Navigator is responsible for providing hands-on assistance to people with mental illness and/or intellectual disabilities who are returning from periods of incarceration and identify as victims of crime while incarcerated. Our goal is to promote the successful integration of DC residents with mental illness and intellectual disabilities into the community.

As a member of the DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project, the VS Peer Navigator will provide peer support to returning citizens who have experienced victimization as they navigate and access victim services and supports, address barriers, and empower clients to obtain resources. The VS Peer Navigator will work under the supervision of the VS Reentry Advocate. Responsibilities include, in coordination with the VS Reentry Advocate:

- ❑ Link clients with services, resources, and benefits, helping to fill out applications when needed; provide transportation training and assistance; accompany clients to mental health and other appointments to facilitate their engagement and follow through as needed.
- ❑ Prepare, advise, and assist clients to assert their rights within the criminal justice, courts, and mental health systems, including preparation for testifying about or sharing their stories in the community.
- ❑ Coordinate treatment and reentry planning with other community providers to ensure goal-directed, collaborative care; advocate with service providers as needed.
- ❑ Advise clients on self-help strategies and methods to connect with peer-based recovery supports.
- ❑ Conduct outreach activities, including home and community-based visits, to facilitate client engagement in services.
- ❑ Provide crisis intervention and follow-up.
- ❑ Document all client activities in progress notes; manage files; and complete database entry to measure program outcomes.
- ❑ Provide administrative support to the team by collecting medical records; contacting facilities to schedule calls; locating clients that are difficult to reach; and maintaining and updating training and outreach materials.
- ❑ Participate in outreach and training activities to educate other service providers and community stakeholders about the prevalence of victimization among incarcerated

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individuals and the special needs of this population, and advocate for a seamless service system.

Compensation: The Peer Navigator will work full-time for a competitive non-profit salary, based on experience, plus benefits, which include full medical insurance, vacation, sick leave and other benefits.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ❑ Required: Peer certification or minimum 2 years' experience in social services or related field. Bachelor's degree preferred.
- ❑ Required: Willingness to self-identify as a person who has lived experience with incarceration and/or who has been a consumer of mental health services.
- ❑ Required: Ability to communicate and build rapport with individuals who have extensive trauma histories, serious and persistent mental illness or intellectual disabilities, and criminal system involvement, and who are predominantly low-income people of color.
- ❑ Required: Ability to work effectively as a proactive member of an interdisciplinary team. Demonstrated competence in verbal, written, organizational and prioritization skills. Strong problem-solving skills and ability to troubleshoot challenging situations.
- ❑ Preferred: Experience working with people with mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual disabilities, and histories of trauma.
- ❑ Preferred: Familiarity and/or experience advocating for people who are victims of crime.
- ❑ Preferred: Knowledge of DC social services resources, including services specific to crime victims.

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must *briefly* respond to the following three questions within a cover letter or in a separate essay (maximum 2 pages total):

- 1) What are your personal or professional motivations behind working in the criminal justice/disability rights field?
- 2) What do you believe is one problem in the criminal justice system that could benefit from more advocacy reform?
- 3) What do you believe is one problem in the behavioral health system which could benefit from more advocacy reform?

Please send your responses together with a resume and list of references electronically **no later than January 18, 2021** to:

Tammy Seltzer, Director
DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project
University Legal Services
tseltzer@uls-dc.org
No calls please

Applications will be considered as soon as they are received.

ULS values diversity of culture, disability, and other life experiences, and is an equal opportunity employer by choice. People with personal experience in the criminal legal system and/or behavioral health system are welcome and encouraged to apply.