

Job Posting

Position Title: Peer Support Worker - Hepatitis C (Hep C)

Employment Status: Volunteer

Hours of Work Schedule: Minimum 20 Hours/Month

Position Reports To: **Manager**, Health Promotion and Community Development Manager

Director: Health Promotion and Community Development

Location: Durham Region

Organization Overview

Durham Community Health Centre is a recognized leader in redefining the experience of community-based health and wellness services. We provide access to high quality holistic and inclusive care that is responsive to the needs of the community and empowers individuals to enhance their own well-being.

Our name embodies what we do every day – we care. Caring for the health and wellness of our communities' residents is the cause that unites us. It shapes our thinking and guides our actions.

Durham Community Health Centre is a registered charitable organization providing a variety of free, community programs and services including: health promotion and wellness programs; primary care, counselling and mental health; diabetes education; Hepatitis C screening, treatment support, education and outreach; geriatric assessment & intervention; young parent support, youth programs, Indigenous programs; community development programs; and fundraising events which include developing charitable partnerships/sponsorships to fund programs.

In line with the CHC Model of Health and Wellbeing, our expert team works with our clients to provide holistic care, support, and wraparound services that empower clients to improve their health and wellness. We strive to be accessible to those in the community who face access barriers like culture, gender, geographic isolation, homelessness, language, physical disabilities, poverty, and race.

We are Durham Community Health Centre! Care. Compassion. Community.

Position Overview

Peer Support Worker will utilize their lived experience with mental health and/or addiction challenges as to support individuals in determining their goals. The members of the Hep C team work collaboratively to provide seamless multidisciplinary care for clients at risk of acquiring/living with Hep C comprehensive medical support, psycho-social support, and treatment, in collaboration and consultation with the team treating physician. The targeted priority population includes individuals who use drugs, people involved with the correctional system, people who are homeless or under-housed, Indigenous peoples, street-involved youth, and people with tattoos and/or piercings acquired in an unregulated premises.

As a member of the Hep C Team, the Peer Support Worker will provide low threshold outreach, raise education and awareness, promote testing, treatment, and prevention interventions to at risk peers within the community.

Key Responsibilities:

Outreach and Support

- Active outreach in Durham Region and Four Counties community that are frequented by at risk peers infected with/at risk of acquiring Hep C
- Facilitate and/or Co-facilitate and support Hep C client support groups (frequency depends on the location, can be up to twice a week and may take place at community hubs or partnering agencies).
- Work in a respectful, supportive, and non-judgmental manner as part of a positive, solution focused team.
- Initiate, interact and participate with individuals, peer-led workshops, and build supportive relationships in a meaningful, compassionate, and positive manner.
- Willingness to selectively share lived experience that is relevant and appropriate to a situation, and for reasons that are therapeutic to the individual, maintaining clear boundaries as necessary, model effective skills, competency in own recovery and in maintaining ongoing wellness.
- Offer encouragement & hope, while partnering with clients to move towards their vision of recovery and wellness.
- Actively participate in meetings, seminars, projects & training as required
- Identifies emerging issues and trends in HCV Hep C support services
- Keep up to date with new developments on prevention, education, treatment, and testing
- Identify new outreach locations
- Promote Carea to the community and encourage clients to access Carea's other programs and services
- Responds to inquiries regarding services and needs of the at-risk community and its range of services
- Keep accurate records (statistics) by filling out peer support time sheet monthly
- Collect information from service users and assist in project evaluations to improve service delivery
- Provides one-to-one peer support
- Model appropriate behavior thorough adherence to the code of conduct and adherence to organizational policies and procedures
- Participate in team meetings with supervisor
- Specific projects as assigned by the supervisor (e.g., development of an educational brochure about Hep C for clients/peers, conferences organizing and presentations, attends community development meetings, etc.).

Qualifications

- Ability to work independently as well as in a team
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and appropriate boundaries
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and group work skills

The following are considered Assets:

- Direct experience with Hepatitis C/ - e.g., lived experience with issues surrounding priority population.
- Experience with peer support/education.
- Experience with volunteering.
- Experience with working with service users and community organization.

Minimum Key Attributes Required

- Communicator
- Collaborative
- Effective Interpersonal Skills / Team Player
- Strong Time Management & Organizational skills
- Adaptable – to the needs of others; to changing priorities
- Crisis management & Problem-Solving skills

Full vaccination against COVID-19 is mandatory for this position (Durham CHC will however adhere to its duty to accommodate those who are unable to be fully vaccinated for a reason related to a human right protected ground).

Application Process:

- 1) If you are interested in being considered for this position, please submit a cover letter and resume outlining your qualifications and expectations by email to recruiting@durhamchc.ca. This position will remain posted until filled.
- 2) While we thank all applicants for their interest in applying, only those qualified and considered for an interview will be contacted. All applicant submissions will be kept on file for six months, for future consideration.
- 3) All applicants are encouraged to provide a valid email address for communication purposes. Applicants may receive written correspondence regarding this job posting directly to the email address provided on their resume. As an applicant, it is your responsibility to ensure that you check your email regularly.
- 4) All positions are subject to the successful completion of the following pre-employment conditions for all external hires: Reference Checks; and Criminal Background checks (including Vulnerable Sector Screening).

Durham Community Health Centre is committed to complying with all applicable standards as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), the provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code, and any other applicable legislation. Accessibility: If you have accessibility needs and require alternate formats or other accommodations, please contact Human Resources at 905-723-0036, or by email to recruiting@durhamchc.ca. **Durham Community Health Centre, and staff are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment that welcomes diversity.**