



Job and Program Summary: Reporting to the Team Leader or designate, the Peer Support Specialist (PSS) shares their own consumer knowledge and lived experience of mental health / substance use to assist ICM participants to live successfully in the community. The PSS collaborates with the participant and the ICM team to determine appropriate care to meet individual needs and situational requirements. The PSS provides participants with education, counseling, support and advocacy from a lived experience perspective in order to assist them in effectively obtaining service from the ICM team staff, external service providers and community resources. The PSS also provides a variety of supports to assist participants living with mental health / substance—such as emotional and social supports, life skills assistance, information, resources, and demonstrations.

The PSS also performs Service Coordination duties for a group of approximately 15 ICM participants, maintaining oversight to ensure that participants' self-identified goals for recovery and community integration are supported by appropriate services and practices, consistent with the values of self-determination/choice and harm reduction. Working in collaboration with the other members of the ICM team, the PSS coordinates the provision of ICM services for participants served by the team members in their area of specialization. Services are provided in any environment including: the streets, shelters, hospitals, and participants' homes.

Diversity: RainCity Housing serves a diverse group of people and we need a staff group that reflects the diversity. People of diverse backgrounds and cultures are encouraged to apply.

Qualifications: many forms of education and experience are valued, including volunteering and lived experience of mental health/ addictions/homelessness; minimum education and experience includes:

- A Diploma in community social services.
- Two years of recent, related work experience with an emphasis on mental health, addictions, homelessness and/or social services, including one year of service planning experience, and experience in a peer support training program
- Or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.
- Current First Aid and CPR certification.
- **Class 5 Drivers License required.**

Key Skills and Abilities – for supporting people receiving our services

- Knowledge of principles of community integration for people living with a mental illness.
- Knowledge of the principles of recovery in mental illness and problematic substance use.
- Knowledge of harm reduction principles and activities
- Basic knowledge of diagnoses, treatment and support resources in the areas of mental illness, substance use, physical health, including HIV and Hepatitis C.
- Basic knowledge of psychopharmacology
- Basic knowledge of counseling skills, including motivational interviewing principles.
- Basic knowledge of other health care disciplines and their role in client care.
- Basic knowledge of legislation and government policies and procedures that relate to client, including the Residential Tenancy Act and the BC Mental Health Act.
- Demonstrated understanding of oppression and marginalization, specifically as related to people with experience of a mental illness, addiction, or homelessness.
- Ability to be a role model to people recovering from a mental illness by sharing common life and rehabilitation experiences and practical information
- Ability to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds in a downtown environment and be flexible and creative in providing services
- Ability to identify and work to increase client strengths, including the use of hope inducing strategies and assisting the client in self-managing their illness and other aspects of their life.
- Ability to commit to service partnerships and build relationships by providing assistance and support.
- Ability to effectively and safely resolve crisis situations
- Ability to apply knowledge of theory and practice to a case management process.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Listening and information seeking skills that promotes communication and lead to a co-operative approach to problematic client actions and choices; problem solving within a transdisciplinary setting.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively as a member of a transdisciplinary team.
- Ability to establish workload priorities, adjust to new or unexpected events, problem solve, and deal effectively with conflict situations.



- Ability to provide consultation and leadership to other ICM team members.
- Ability to operate office equipment including computers
- Physical ability to perform the duties of the position.