



Center for
Prevention Services



Position: Full-time Harm Reduction Outreach Specialist - Mecklenburg County

Posting Date: 9/18/2024

Queen City Harm Reduction's (QCHR) syringe service program (SSP) is hiring a bilingual outreach specialist that will support mobile services to historically marginalized people who use drugs (PWUD) who reside in Mecklenburg County. In collaboration with other staff, outreach will be conducted in the towns of Matthews, Mint Hill, Pineville, Davidson, Huntersville, and Cornelius.

Description of Responsibilities

Syringe Services Program

- Distribute safer drug use equipment (including naloxone) and other harm reduction supplies including safer sex kits, wound care aids, and outdoor survival gear to PWUD.
- Educate PWUD on proper disposal and support the safe collection of used consumption materials from program members.
- Provide follow-up outreach to individuals who have recently experienced a non-fatal overdose.
- Provide harm reduction 101 and overdose recognition and response training to people who are incarcerated in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center. This includes working with detention center staff to support people reentering the community.
- Provide harm reduction 101 and overdose recognition and response training to providers and clients in various institutions including treatment centers, recovery housing, and/or hospitals.
- Provide education on how to prevent and respond to overamping/stimulant overdose
- Provide harm reduction education on safer sex.
- Offer community based STI/HIV/hepatitis prevention education.
- Work closely with QCHR's testing and housing team to effectively support linkage to care for members seeking referrals for housing first assistance, HIV and Hepatitis C testing and treatment, medicated assisted treatment, detox, and other requested support services.

Community Outreach and Education

- Provide training to the public, families, and professionals on harm reduction, overdose prevention, syringe services programs, and other potent topics.
- Attend coalition and community meetings in Mecklenburg County as well as statewide virtual calls and in-person engagements with external partners.
- Attend quarterly naloxone kit making events and other community health fairs that support supplies and resources for PWUD.

Data Collection

- Ensure all outreach work meets program deliverables set by supervisor.
- All outreach providers are responsible for the collection and data input for naloxone distribution, referrals, and linkage to support services once an individual is connected.
- All QCHR staff is responsible for monthly time submissions, monthly mileage, and reimbursements.

Community Organizing and Advocacy

- Support participants and other outreach staff in organizing advocacy and awareness events.
- Participate in advancing QCHR's local and statewide harm reduction advocacy goals.
- Attend in-house workshops and training seminars for QCHR staff as well as external training as assigned.

Respect and Confidentiality

- Be culturally aware and respectful of people who use drugs, people who do sex work, people living with HIV or HCV, currently and formerly incarcerated people, and the LGBTQ community.
- Maintain strict confidentiality and treat all participants with warmth and positive regard.
- Leave all biases at home. QCHR and its SSP is a safe, non-judgmental, and all-inclusive space.

Experience

- Candidate must have living or lived experience with substance use or substance use disorder.
- Candidate must speak, read, and write Spanish.
- Candidate needs to demonstrate ability to establish and maintain ethical relationships with SSP participants, maintain strict confidentiality, and treat all participants non-judgmentally and with positive regard.
- Candidate should be comfortable with the framework and principles of harm reduction. This work involves consistent engagement with PWUD that are chronically homeless, engaged in sex work, justice involved, and/or are experiencing other adverse conditions.
- Candidate must be willing to examine current beliefs about harm reduction approaches and potentially learn or relearn evidence-based approaches that support healthier outcomes for PWUD.
- Candidates should be comfortable with public speaking and group presentations. Baseline knowledge of drug use and the drug war is highly preferred.
- Candidate must be comfortable engaging in challenging conversation and topics with individuals and groups.
- Candidate must be capable of leaving biases at home and treating people with evidence-based care over ideals.
- Candidate must demonstrate strong communication skills and an ability to thrive while working autonomously.
- Candidate must have a valid driver's license and vehicle
- Candidate must be able to work flexible hours, including some weekends and evenings.
- People who are HIV/hepatitis positive, have a history of drug use, sex work, or incarceration are strongly encouraged to apply.

Starting salary is 43k and comes with a generous benefits package.

Please submit a CV and resume, along with any other questions to: gchr@preventionservices.org

QCHR is a program of Center for Prevention Services (CPS). CPS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. People of color, from the LGBTQI community, and individuals who have lived experience with drug use, sex work, HIV, HCV and incarceration are strongly encouraged to apply. If you are comfortable, please include information about your lived experience in the cover letter.