

New Jersey Forensic Peer Bridger Training & Internship - Recruiting Peers Statewide

New Jersey is offering Forensic Peer Bridger education free of charge to people in recovery who wish to help their peers with "forensic or criminal justice involvement" to transition from institutions to the community. "Forensically-involved" peers includes those who have been institutionalized or potentially could be institutionalized due to a determination of "Not guilty by reason of insanity" (KROL vs. NJ status), on a retainer due to being found incompetent to stand trial, or involuntarily committed under NJ's sex offender law, "Megan's Law".

Peer Bridgers seek to establish a culture of mutual respect by mentoring, role modeling, and linking service recipients to community resources and natural supports. Forensic Peer Bridgers engage and empower these individuals to embrace self-care and holistic practices defined by the Eight Dimensions of Wellness. Community integration is pursued through the development of valued social roles. Peer Bridgers seek to get the "institution out of" the individual's thinking and by helping the person develop an effective means of thriving in the community. This program is made possible through a Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) through NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The program will have a classroom and internship component offered by the Rutgers Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation & Counseling Professions. Also, a training stipend can be provided to help defray a portion of the costs of participating in the training.

Persons with lived experience of mental illness criminal justice involvement backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Submit your application (on back) and supporting materials by February 2, 2016.

Applicants will be interviewed between November 2015 and February 2016.

Background Check: All potential students will be finger printed in order to qualify for the internship component of program at the state hospitals. Persons with the lived experience of mental illness and criminal justice involvement backgrounds encouraged to apply. NJ Dept. of Human Services will provide final approval of who can participate **(February and March, 2016)**

Classroom Training Weekly on Thursdays:

March 31, 2016 May 12, 2016

10:00AM to 4:30PM

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

School of Health Related Professions

Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions

1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Weekly Internship: May 16, 2016 through June 30, 2016

40 hours

Internships at State Hospital Locations: Ancora, Trenton, and Greystone Park

Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) NJ Forensic Peer Bridger Training and Internship/Practicum Application

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Please check the following:

1. Are you available to attend the classroom training site at Rutgers University, 1776 Raritan Road Scotch Plains, NJ? Yes ___ No ___?
2. Are you available to do a state hospital internship in Hammonton ___ Trenton ___ and/or Morris Plains ___? (check all that apply)
3. Please attach your resume.
4. Please attach a one page personal statement about your own recovery experience and why you want to develop peer bridger skills to serve persons who are forensically-involved.
5. Please attach one page letter of support from one professional in the field. (including peer providers).
6. Do you wish to be considered for a stipend to help defray transportation and meal costs of participating in the educational program and its internship? (Acceptance or declining will not impact your application) Yes ___ No ___
7. Applicants will be subject to a criminal background check. Individuals with a criminal justice history will not be automatically excluded, but may be asked to provide more information. Final approval will be by NJ Dept. of Human Services.
8. Any questions contact: George H. Brice, Jr. at 908-581-8053 or bricejgh@shrp.rutgers.edu Please send completed application, resume, personal statement and letter of support to: Debbie Rich via email at debbie.rich@rutgers.edu

