

Santa Cruz County
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
Seeks to contract for a

Veterans Advocate

Salary: \$30 - \$35 per hour
(Commensurate with experience)
Full Time

The Position:

The Veterans Advocate will engage veterans and their families in need of assistance and will identify available services, including supports and services tailored to their particular cultural, ethnic, age, and gender identity. They will follow-up with the veterans and their families to ensure that these individuals have successfully linked up and received the help they need.

The Veterans Advocate will engage in joint planning efforts with community partners, including veterans groups, veterans administration, community-based organizations, County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, other County Departments, intradepartmental staff, schools, health service programs, faith based organizations, and self-help and advocacy groups, with the goal of increasing access to mental health services and strengthening the network of services available to veterans within and outside the mental health system.

The Advocate will assure the County is compliant with AB 3083 (linkages between County and Veterans agencies.)

The Advocate must address the needs of a varied population; veterans including non-combat personnel, women, LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning), homeless, and those with a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge.

Duties and Requirement for this position:

- Thorough knowledge of veterans' issues
- Ability to "build bridges"; assist with establishing linkages to essential services and develop collaborative relationships with a variety of service providers (VA offices in Capitola & Santa Cruz; HPHP; County Mental health; Palo Alto and Menlo Park VA Hospitals; and, other local and state service providers)
- Establish collaboration / coordination among veteran and active duty military service providers to avoid duplication and improve efficiency
- Provide outreach and engagement to veterans and their families
- Ability to work with persons that may have (undiagnosed) mental illness
- The ability to communicate and understand service participant experiences and service needs
- Ability to recognize service needs and help veterans, active duty military, and their families access services
- Provide mental health information, self-screening tools, and lists of appropriate resources to veterans and their families
- Assess and prioritize needs of veterans and their families
- Provide support and education to veterans and their families

- Develop an outcomes measurement system to inform and document implementation of the plan
- Create and maintain an up-to-date database documenting interventions
- Provide monthly updates to the Executive Director and the funding source
- Submit quarterly and annual written reports detailing progress in relation to the goals set for the initiative

Understanding of:

- Signs and symptoms of mental illness (including post-traumatic stress disorder)
- Homeless issues
- Family system
- Psychological interventions

Qualifications:

Successful candidates must possess the following:

- Language: English, Bilingual preferred (Spanish)
- Must be computer literate
- Experience working with veterans in a social work or advocacy capacity is desirable
- Demonstrate the ability to develop and implement effective strategies
- Ability to build relationships with diverse groups of people
- Effective negotiation skills and ability to build consensus
- Strong commitment to serve homeless veterans and a desire to succeed

How to Apply:

Submit letter of interest, resume, and supplemental questions to:

Email: pam.rogers-wyman@santacruzcounty.us

Or

Mail: Santa Cruz County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
1400 Emeline Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Supplemental Question: Demonstrate the ability to develop and implement effective strategies

Applications will meet the final filing date if received by March 14, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please call Pam Rogers-Wyman, 831-454-5244