

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OF MARYLAND LTD.**  
***DIVERSION LINKAGES PROJECT: PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST***

The Association for the Public Defender of Maryland together with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) seeks Board Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPRS) to work as an essential team member in our rural office in Hagerstown, Maryland. OPD provides superior representation to indigent clients of all ages throughout the State of Maryland. The Agency's vision is for *Justice, Fairness, and Dignity for All* and we are committed to our core values of a culture of excellence, client-centered representation, tenacious advocacy, and unity as a team in achieving the Agency's mission. This is a grant funded position that will run through October, 2020.

**OVERVIEW:**

Under the supervision of OPD's Director of Social Work, the Peer Support Specialist would serve in our Hagerstown office, working with individuals identified as justice involved individuals with a substance use disorder(s) and could best be served in the community receiving treatment as a pre-trial diversion. The Peer Support Specialist will provide referrals, case management support and support through personal shared experiences.

**PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Work alongside the Client Services Specialist to refer participants to the community based provider, Serenity Treatment Center, and encourage compliance with treatment plan;
- Help clients navigate social service systems in the community to fulfill program expectations;
- Provide case management services including completing applications and referral forms to obtain services;
- Function as a mentor and role model to clients based on shared lived experience;
- Assist clients in developing empowerment skills and combatting stigma through self-advocacy;
- Request specific and appropriate information about the client from involved treatment providers to promote continuity of care and program success.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- High school diploma or GED equivalent
- Certified by the Maryland Addiction and Behavioral Health Professionals Certifications Board
- Lived experience with mental health and/or substance use disorders
- Familiarity with Washington County resources (public transportation system, social services, shelters, etc.)
- Ability to engage people based on their own needs in various settings
- Ability to build and maintain professional helping relationships
- Ability to relate and communicate with diverse populations and groups.

**TO APPLY:**

If interested in becoming a valued team member and working towards just outcomes for indigent individuals, please submit a: (1) Cover Letter and (2) Resume via email to **tcollins@opd.state.md.us** or mail items to the attention of: Terri L. Collins, LCSW-C, Director of Social Work, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, 6 St. Paul Street, Suite 1502, Baltimore, MD 21202.

**CLOSING DATE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED**

**The Maryland Office of the Public Defender is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to building a culturally diverse staff and strongly encourage people historically underrepresented in the practice of law to apply.**