



## **Motel Coordinator(s)**

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Motel Coordinator (1):** 22 hrs/week - coordination of CCC and Russell

**Motel Coordinator (2):** 15 hrs/week - coordination of Spaken and Our Place Transitional Housing (919 Pandora)

### **OVERVIEW**

Peers Victoria is an innovative, multi-service grassroots agency that has been working with, and for, Victoria sex workers since 1995. Through direct service delivery and partnerships, Peers provides an array of outreach, harm reduction, group education and other support services. We maintain a welcoming and accessible service environment that promotes empowerment of current and former sex workers.

In light of the COVID19 and Overdose pandemics, and the decampment of homeless camps in Victoria, The City of Victoria and BC Housing partnered to develop a number of sheltering locations and low barrier housing sites (“Sites”). Some of these Sites are permanent, and others temporary. Island Health has provided funding for on-site health services, including harm reduction and overdose prevention, primary care, addictions medicine, and peer support services.

Experience and evidence have demonstrated that an in-reach model for harm reduction services, utilizing peer staff, resident peers, and allied health staff, is effective at reducing risks for individuals choosing to use alone in their homes. This “Housing Overdose Prevention and Peer Services” model (“HOPPS” model) is a model that is not solely dependent on a fixed space, rather, it also offers a range of overdose prevention options, including episodic in person, virtual, and by telephone witnessing.

**The primary goals of the HOPPS model include, but are not limited to:**

- i. Provide a range of options for individuals to safely use drugs alone or in public, including providing access to trained staff who can monitor individuals in-person, virtually, and/or by telephone, and who will respond to overdoses as needed in order to reduce the number of deaths and harms related to overdoses.
- ii. Develop 'safer use' plans in partnership with residents
- iii. Develop and support a peer resident program including hiring, training, support, and supervision
- iv. Reduce other harms associated with substance use through:
- v. Provision of harm reduction supplies to reduce transmission of blood-borne infections, endocarditis, and sepsis.
- vi. Increased access to low barrier services.
- vii. Increased access to recovery services.
- viii. Increased referral pathways to local services related to substance use and/or other health or related social issues; and
- ix. Increased opportunity for peer support networks and peer participation; and
- x. Create safe and healthy communities by working in active collaboration with housing-based providers and the Site operator to collectively reduce overdose risks for residents of the site by sharing information, developing shared safety/care/tenancy plans, and providing educational resources.

Reporting to the Executive Director and Program Coordinator, the Motel Coordinators will oversee three (3) HOPPS Teams in supportive housing locations. It is expected that the HOPPS Teams will continue to evolve given the need to engage in a continuous quality improvement process to ensure these services are provided in a way that minimizes harms related to substance use.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Scheduling motel shifts and assisting the Program Coordinator and Executive Director with callouts;
- Attending relevant meetings on behalf of Peers including site meetings, interagency meetings and resident and staff training and relaying information to staff and peer trainees and residents;

- Responsible for reporting duties, collecting and summarizing utilization statistics and submitting to the funder, and organizing team meetings and related communication;
- Collection and distribution of supplies such as PPE, harm reduction, food, first aid etc.
- Coordinating peer engagement program; organizing and participating in the peer training program and ensuring peer trainees and residents are paid in a timely manner and receive support for their work and related financial record keeping is completed;
- Work with allied organizations delivering similar contracts in other sites to execute training, human resource, and policy and practice plan related to the development of the HOPPS model across sites.

**Desired Skills and Qualifications:**

- 2+ years working in harm reduction, preferably with previous coordination experience;
- Strong writing and communication abilities, and an advanced working knowledge of office software;
- Some experience managing peer programming, human resource concerns and an ability manage conflict in sensitive and considerate way that takes into consideration organizational responsibilities to persons served, staff, contract obligations and interagency service partnerships;
- Willingness to seek supervision and team support;
- Ability to manage financial record keeping (\$4000+ per month)
- Curriculum development and execution experience;
- Reliable and willing to be flexible at times regarding work schedule to meet program needs;
- Ability to understand and synthesize service outcome and utilization record keeping frameworks;
- Degree in human service field or equivalent work experience and/or lived experience;
- Ability to drive and your own car is preferable (with travel expenses reimbursed), but an organization vehicle is available at limited times.

**Job details and Training Requirements:**

- Wage is \$29-32/hour based on experience and qualifications.
- Must have Basic First Aid and CPR. Food safe is required to work in other Peers' programs and will be an asset in this position.
- Must complete a vulnerable sector criminal record check.
- Additional certification/training in therapeutic communication, conflict resolution, and occupational safety practices an asset.
- Based on skills and experience, people hired may be eligible to work casually in the night outreach and drop-in programs.

It is possible to pair a Motel Coordinator position while also working shifts at any of the sites, with shifts at the sites being paid at the HOPPS Support staff rate (\$26-27).

**If you are interested in these opportunities, please send a resume and cover letter outlining your relevant skills and experience to [peershiring@gmail.com](mailto:peershiring@gmail.com) by October 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2021**

Applications from individuals with direct experience in any aspect of the sex industry are especially welcome. Our group welcomes Indigenous people, people of colour, and people of diverse abilities, genders, and sexualities.