

Edison Russell

Peer Support and Engagement Specialist

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STRENGTHS

- 🧠 **Trust Building**
Shared lived recovery experience with care, and hesitant clients began discussing needs, goals, and next steps.
- 🧠 **Crisis Engagement**
Kept conversations grounded during tense encounters. Clinicians received useful observations, and clients stayed connected with support.
- 🧠 **Practical Recovery Support**
Turned coping goals into small practice steps. Clients gained clearer routines for appointments, self advocacy, and recovery.
- 🧠 **Team Coordination**
Peer observations entered team discussions with purpose. Colleagues could coordinate follow up without losing client context.
- 🌐 **Cultural Responsiveness**
Listened across varied backgrounds and adjusted communication respectfully. Clients found space for their own experiences and choices.

SKILLS

Peer Recovery Support
Behavioral Health
Substance Use Recovery
Co occurring Conditions
Crisis Engagement
De escalation Support
Recovery Oriented Practice
Purposeful Self Disclosure
Skill Building Case Management
Electronic Client Records
Client Privacy

SUMMARY

Peer Support and **Engagement Specialist** with four years of behavioral health and recovery support experience serving adults facing substance use, mental health, and co occurring crises. Uses **lived recovery experience**, purposeful self disclosure, **trauma informed engagement**, and culturally responsive communication to build trust during high stress encounters. Supports de escalation alongside clinical teams, reinforces practical coping strategies, and provides skill building and case management follow through in stabilization and crisis settings. Completes timely **Electronic Client Record** documentation while protecting confidential and privileged information. Participates in progress reviews, emergency response activities, recovery planning, and coordinated care. Maintains dependable attendance, current training, a valid Illinois driver's license, and reliable transportation for community based responsibilities.

EXPERIENCE

Peer Recovery Support Specialist

Harbor Point Recovery Services 📅 October 2024 - Present 📍 Rockford, IL

Supports adults entering substance use stabilization and crisis services, partnering with licensed clinicians and multidisciplinary teams. Provides recovery focused engagement, skill building, case management follow through, documentation, privacy protection, and emergency response within fast paced behavioral health operations.

- Built trust during stabilization encounters through lived experience, purposeful self disclosure, and **recovery oriented communication**.
- Supported clinician led **de escalation** by maintaining calm engagement and sharing timely behavioral observations.
- Connected clients with recovery resources, transportation, appointments, and community supports through individualized **case management**.
- Reinforced coping strategies and recovery behaviors during **withdrawal management** and **substance use stabilization** services.
- Completed Electronic Client Record notes within program timeframes while protecting confidential and **privileged information**.
- Joined progress reviews and emergency response activities with cultural sensitivity, professional boundaries, and dependable attendance.

Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist

Prairie Path Behavioral Wellness 📅 October 2022 - September 2024 📍 DeKalb, IL

Supported adults with **mental health**, substance use, and co occurring recovery needs across community and crisis oriented programs. Coordinated peer observations with counselors, case managers, and crisis staff while strengthening engagement, continuity of care, documentation quality, privacy practices, and practical **recovery planning**.

- Built sustained engagement with hesitant clients through active listening, recovery storytelling, and strengths based goals.
- Practiced coping routines, appointment preparation, self advocacy, relapse prevention concepts, and community resource use.
- Coordinated client needs with counselors, case managers, and crisis staff during service transitions.
- Documented peer observations and follow up actions in electronic records for continuity across programs.
- Safeguarded sensitive information through privacy procedures, documentation standards, and consistent professional boundaries.
- Completed crisis response, cultural responsiveness, safety training, and approved community support driving activities.

Cultural Responsiveness

Team Coordination

Emergency Response

LANGUAGES

English Native

Spanish Beginner

MY CAREER



- Peer Recovery Support Specialist at Harbor Point Recovery Services (2 Years)
- Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist at Prairie Path Behavioral Wellness (1.9 Years)

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Certified Recovery Support Specialist credential earned in 2025, reflecting sustained preparation for peer recovery practice.
- Mental Health First Aid certification earned in 2024, supporting safer responses during behavioral health crises.

EDUCATION

Associate of Applied Science in Human Services

Rock Valley College 🎓 GPA: 0 📅 2022 📍 Rockford, IL

Coursework: Behavioral health, case management, crisis intervention, human services

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Recovery Support Specialist 📅 2025
- Mental Health First Aid 📅 2024
- Valid Illinois Driver's License 📅 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Peer Recovery Practice:** Recovery support, lived experience, recovery modeling
- **Crisis Services:** Crisis engagement, stabilization care, withdrawal management
- **De escalation:** Calm engagement, crisis intervention, behavioral observation
- **Case Management:** Resource connection, appointment support, care follow through
- **Skill Building:** Coping strategies, self advocacy, relapse prevention
- **Client Records:** Electronic Client Record, encounter notes, service updates
- **Privacy Practices:** Confidential information, privileged information, privacy procedures
- **Team Coordination:** Multidisciplinary teams, progress reviews, care coordination
- **Cultural Practice:** Cultural sensitivity, cultural responsiveness, respectful engagement
- **Safety Response:** Emergency response, safety training, crisis response
- **Recovery Credentials:** CRSS, Mental Health First Aid, Illinois driver's license

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Multidisciplinary behavioral health teams, coordinated client progress reviews, crisis response, and next steps in care.
- Recovery support networks, connected adults with appointments, transportation, community resources, and practical continuity of care.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST