

# Peer Advisory Council Application

## *Mental Health and Addiction Program*

The Mental Health and Addiction Program (MHAP) at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) is recruiting individuals experiencing mental illness and/or addiction to join our **Peer Advisory Council**.

If you are a person who has received mental health and/or addiction services from SJHH in the recent past (under 3 years), and have a passion to contribute, we encourage you to apply:

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you done or are you presently doing any type of volunteer work and, if so, what type? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever participated in any committees or boards? If so, please let us know the nature of your participation. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Do you possess any of the following skills?

*(This is merely to be able to help the executive in the assignment of duties. **Please check those that apply.**)*

Basic Computer Skills  Advanced Computer Skills

Speaking in Front of An Audience

Assisting in Developing Reports and Position Papers

In what way do you feel you can assist the Peer Advisory Council in continuing and strengthening our Mission and Purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you be able to use your experience in a productive and hopeful context in representing others with the lived experience of mental illness?

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\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please ensure that you have read and agree with the Peer Advisory Council Mission and Statement of Purpose on the back of this form →**

To submit completed application or get more information:  
Patient and Family Collaborative Support Services  
Phone: (905) 522-1155 x **39559** | Fax: (905)-381-5654

St. Joseph's  
Healthcare  Hamilton

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## Peer Support Services Mission Statement

In Keeping with St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton's mission and values of compassion, dignity and respect, Peer Support Services aims to improve the quality of life of persons who share the lived experience of mental illness.

Staff, volunteers and members embrace the unique needs of our peers by providing support in a non-judgmental, respectful way through education, information sharing, peer support, social/recreational activities, and organizational and system advocacy.

## Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Peer Advisory Council is to directly support others with a psychiatric illness and/or addiction by:

- Providing support including empathetic listening, encouragement, information and sharing experiences
- Advocating for the needs of the individual at an organizational/system level.
- Role modeling self-help and empowerment skills
- Advancing and promoting self-determination, autonomy and personal decision-making
- Designing, implementing and presenting stigma reduction, public and staff education campaigns
- Ensuring the involvement of individuals with lived experience is valued and respected

The Council will advise the mental health system, specifically the Mental Health and Addiction Program (MH&AP) of St. Joseph's healthcare Hamilton by:

- Ensuring that the perspective of persons with lived experience is considered in decision making
- Advocating for the needs of individuals who use the services of the MH&AP
- Giving a voice to the peer perspective in any and all meetings, committees, and task groups that impact on the overall care and treatment of persons served.

The Peer Advisory Council will operate in conjunction with St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, Mental Health and Addiction Program, but is self-governing.

**Thank you for your interest in the Peer Advisory Council!**

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