



Naugatuck Valley Health District

98 Bank Street Seymour, CT 06483

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Ansonia Beacon Falls Derby Naugatuck Seymour Shelton

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

JOB DESCRIPTION

OVERDOSE PREVENTION NAVIGATOR

SALARY RANGE: \$55,000.00 - \$59,912.00

The nationally accredited Naugatuck Valley Health District is seeking a full-time Overdose Prevention Navigator to join its Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) team. This role embodies a vital mission: linking individuals facing substance use challenges that live in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, Seymour and Shelton with essential support services. Through compassionate outreach and expert guidance, you will connect individuals to a range of services, including medical care, substance use treatment programs, housing assistance, and more. Those with lived experience in recovery from substance use and/or with familial substance use are encouraged to apply.

REPORTS TO

Work is performed under the supervision of the Director of Health.

SUPERVISES

This position has no direct reports.

PRIMARY FUNCTION AND COMPENSATION

This is a full-time (35-hours per week), grant-funded position that is responsible for linking people who use drugs to support services. Business hours are Monday – Thursday 8:00am-4pm and Friday 8:00am-1pm. This position occasionally requires work to be performed in the evenings and on weekends; compensatory time will be provided. This position is eligible for the benefits of a full-time employee consistent with the Personnel Policies of the Naugatuck Valley Health District.

- Full-time employees receive Health, Dental, and Life Insurance.
- Paid vacation time (annual accrual of 70 hours), 21 hours of personal time, an annual accrual of 2 weeks sick time, and 15 paid holidays.
- Connecticut Municipal Employee Retirement Plan (CMERS). Employees are also eligible to participate in the Voya 457 Plan (voluntary basis).
- Mileage reimbursement based on the IRS rate.
- District issued cell phone.
- Training and tuition assistance for continuing education.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conducts a minimum of two street community outreach activities where people who use drugs (PWUD) gather and conduct naloxone training and education around safer injection practices monthly.
- Develops relationships with local health and social service providers, makes referrals, and maintains contact lists.
- Provides case management services (linkage to substance use disorder (SUD) care and referral to HIV/HCV testing, transportation assistance, appointment reminders, check-in visits, connection to other social services) and re-engagement in care activities.
- Distributes resource cards to organizations, to first responders, and emergency departments for them to hand out.

- Establish a regular schedule at organizations such as at health clinics/FQHCs, libraries and other community locations so that the staff and clients of those organizations understand when a Navigator will be available for connections with clients.
- Distributes fentanyl test strips, naloxone, and other harm reduction supplies, to people who use drugs and during outreach, at community-based organizations, schools, clubs, music venues, places of worship, clinics/doctor's offices, pharmacies.
- Reviews and analyzes health data to identify individuals who have experienced an opioid overdose.
- Conducts a minimum of one training in each category: stigma; harm reduction; naloxone administration; mental health first aid; QPR; or other identified training need on a quarterly basis to staff at partnering community-based agencies (special focus on those that serve target populations); businesses; schools; faith-based organizations (special focus on increasing collaborations); and health system entities
- Conducts a minimum of one training for public safety officers (fire, police, and EMS) in relevant topics such as mental health first aid, QPR, overdose response, stigma reduction, or other identified training needs (or attempt to schedule trainings by contacting at least three entities)
- Trains medical providers and/or pharmacists on best practices related to pain opioid prescribing by completing at least two Academic Detailing on Opioids Safety site visits (or attempt to schedule series by contacting at least ten providers/pharmacists).
- Supports the development of communications materials and social media posts to educate the public.
- Collects data and produces relevant reports. Recording and entering data on all client interactions and referrals into designated tracking platform within one business day.
- Participates in meetings, coalitions, and workgroups as assigned.
- Handles inventory of outreach project materials, equipment, and supplies.
- Maintains confidentiality and complies with HIPAA regulations.
- Works with the OD2A evaluation team to collect and provide data throughout the program in designated areas
- Performs other related duties, as needed.

NOTE: *The above description covers the principal duties and responsibilities of the job and shall not be construed as a complete listing of all duties or as a contract.*

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Possession of an Associate's Degree in Public Health, Social Work, or related field required; a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health, Social Work, or related field preferred.

Minimum 2 years of experience working with individuals who have a substance use disorder, mental health challenges, or experiencing homelessness and the necessary knowledge, abilities, and skills listed below.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Bilingual English/Spanish strongly preferred. We encourage applicants with lived experience in recovery from substance use and/or with familial substance use to apply.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Flexibility of schedule (position may include evenings/weekends/early morning hours).
- Possession of, and ability to maintain, a valid State of Connecticut driver's license with access to a motor vehicle and current motor vehicle insurance coverage is required.
- Frequent in-state travel required.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, & ABILITIES

1. Ability to communicate effectively in a professional manner, both verbally and in writing. Bilingual (English/Spanish) strongly preferred.
2. Ability to work cooperatively and establish effective working relationships with other staff members, community organizations, and the public.
3. Self-motivated, organized; able to work independently and as part of a team.
4. Strong time management skills including organization, prioritization, and multitasking.
5. Ability to interact in a non-judgmental manner with culturally diverse populations and persons experiencing a wide range of social conditions.
6. Ability to use discretion, maintain confidentiality, and maintain ethical standards.
7. Ability to develop concise records and prepare reports.
8. Proficiency in the use of computers including data entry, database management, Word, Excel, and similar programs.
9. Knowledge of the principles, practices, and regulations applied in public health as well as current developments in the fields of community health and overdose prevention.
10. Common knowledge of the cause, transmission, and prevention of vaccine preventable diseases.

This position is aligned with current Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals published by The Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice:

Communication Skills

- Ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions.
- Ability to prepare accurate and concise reports.
- Ability to communicate in a respectful manner both written and orally, in person, and through electronic means, with linguistic and cultural proficiency.

Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills

- Advocates for individual, team, and organizational learning opportunities within the organization.
- Contributes to the development of a vision for a healthy community.

Policy Development/Program Planning Skills

- Implements plans and programs consistent with policies.
- Implements strategies for continuous quality improvement.
- Collaborates in and contributes to individual, team, and Departmental performance management, quality improvement and evaluation activities.

Cultural Competency Skills

- Ability to work with diverse people and cultures within the community.
- Interacts with clients, community partners, and coworkers with fairness and equity and delivers services free of bias or prejudice.
- Ensures the health and safety of the community and treats diverse customers with thoughtful listening and respect.

Community Dimensions of Practice Skills

- Ability to develop cooperative relationships with state and local partners, businesses, and the public.

TO APPLY:

Submit a cover letter and resume to Director Jessica Kristy, Naugatuck Valley Health District, 98 Bank Street, Seymour, CT 06483 or email as an attachment to jkristy@nvhd.org. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified.

EOE/AA

