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www.mhas-la.org

A nonprofit organization protecting and advancing the legal rights of people with mental disabilities.

February 11, 2019

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

STAFF ATTORNEY (BENEFITS ADVOCACY)

ANNUAL SALARY: \$52,000 to \$56,000 depending on experience.

FRINGE BENEFITS:

Generous fringe benefits include paid vacation, holidays and sick leave and employee health, dental, vision, long term disability and life insurance.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:

Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and advance the legal rights of children and adults with mental health disabilities, in order to maximize autonomy, promote equality and secure the resources needed to thrive in the community. MHAS assists both children and adults, with an emphasis on obtaining government benefits and services, protecting rights, and fighting discrimination. MHAS also serves as a resource to the community by providing training and technical assistance to attorneys, mental health professionals, consumer and family member groups, and other advocates. In addition, MHAS participates in impact litigation in an effort to improve the lives of people with mental health disabilities.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

MHAS seeks to hire a full-time attorney with prior SSI, SSDI and other disability benefits experience. The attorney will be part of a project that helps homeless individuals with disabilities obtain income benefits. Primary responsibilities will include provision of technical assistance, training and support to community agencies preparing SSI/SSDI/CAPI applications. The attorney will have the opportunity to engage in policy advocacy and provide trainings to providers of mental health services and social services on SSI/SSDI eligibility and the application process. The attorney may also represent clients in reconsiderations and appeals, as well as other administrative hearings related to benefits.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

1. Provide technical assistance to case managers and advocates regarding SSI/SSDI/CAPI applications.
2. Develop outreach and training materials.
3. Provide outreach and training to service providers and other stakeholders.
4. Participate in project administration, as assigned.
5. Participate in systems advocacy and the development and implementation of long-term advocacy strategies with other members of MHAS' team.
6. Travel to partner agencies throughout Los Angeles County to perform the above.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. J.D. degree and membership in California State Bar.
2. Commitment and sensitivity to the rights of people with mental health disabilities.
3. Excellent oral and written communication skills with attention to detail.
4. Excellent organizational skills with attention to detail.
5. Ability to prioritize tasks, manage time and meet deadlines.
6. Demonstrated ability to analyze complex problems and develop creative solutions.
7. Cultural sensitivity and demonstrated ability to work well with diverse social, economic and ethnic groups.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Spanish language fluency preferred.
2. Experience with government benefits advocacy.
3. Experience advocating for people with mental health disabilities.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE:

All applicants must submit the following:

1. Resume; and
2. Cover letter describing how applicant meets the minimum and desirable qualifications and discussing applicant's motivation for seeking the position.

E-mail application to: info@mhas-la.org (state Employment Application in subject line)

MHAS seeks to fill this position immediately. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.

MHAS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, mental or physical disability, or any other basis protected by law.