

## **Behavioral Health Advocate**

### Summary

The Behavioral Health Advocate position will play a key role in the Government Affairs Team's ability to successfully achieve its goals of improving the lives of those suffering from behavioral health illnesses and their families. Government Affairs works to systemically improve the behavioral health system of care through legislative, administrative and individual advocacy.

This position will be responsible for our work with the legislature – identifying relevant legislation and following through with testimony and other advocacy efforts. Advocacy will include developing a legislative network, monitoring legislation, researching policy issues, and organizing meetings and forums to promote our initiatives. This advocate will represent MHANJ on internal and external committees assigned.

### Duties and Responsibilities

- Identifying, tracking and working with legislative offices on pertinent legislation
- Participating in Government Affairs and Public Policy meetings
- Preparing and delivering testimony and other official responses
- Researching key issues
- Developing relationships in behavioral health and legislative fields
- Participating in relevant surveys
- Creating PowerPoint presentations
- Developing and leading a legislative network
- Other duties supervisor deems appropriate

### Qualifications

- Master's degree in health policy or government affairs
- Excellent writing and communication skills
- Knowledge of New Jersey Behavioral Healthcare System
- Ability to work effectively both individually and as a team member
- Ability to present and reflect the positive values of MHANJ
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft suite and technology
- Ability to work in various settings with culturally diverse communities
- Valid NJ driver's license in good standing and reliable transportation

### EEO Statement:

As an EOE employer, Mental Health Association in New Jersey is committed to providing all applicants and employees with equal access to employment opportunities, regardless of sex, race, age, color, national origin, disability, religion, marital status, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law.

Salary range for this position: \$75,000-\$85,000