Deaf-Blind Specialist – Tennessee

The mission of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults is to enable each person who is deaf-blind to live and work in his or her community of choice. Authorized by an Act of Congress in 1967, HKNC is the only organization of its kind—providing training and resources exclusively to people age 16 and over who have combined vision and hearing loss. Students travel from across the country to our headquarters in Sands Point, New York, for on-campus training in assistive technology, vocational services, orientation and mobility, communication and independent living, and our regional offices bring HKNC resources to communities throughout the United States. Employment at HKNC is a "one-of-a-kind" experience and at HKNC, we seek employees who have a strong work ethic, strive for excellence, enjoy a challenge, and are highly motivated and creative.

We currently have an exciting career opportunity available to join the HKNC team as a Deaf-Blind Specialist in the state of Tennessee.  The primary focus of the Deaf-Blind Specialist will be to provide one on one services to consumers to assist with achievement of employment outcomes, with a commitment to a fully inclusive community-based environment. The Deaf-Blind specialist will also offer training and technical assistance to their families and service providers. This position carries out identified and specific targeted activities, as outlined in Long Range Service Plan (LRSP) to assist the HKNC Regional Representative and interagency team with building capacity within the state. The Deaf-Blind specialist will work in tandem and report directly to the HKNC regional representative. State and community partners in the states the Deaf-Blind specialist work with will assist in identification of gaps in services in these states that will further delineate job responsibilities.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

 Perform duties and activities as directed, consistent with the HKNC and the designated state’s community rehabilitation provider agreement. Primary services provided in one-on-one direct services include the areas of vocational rehabilitation, with an emphasis on employment outcomes including job readiness training, job development, job placement and coaching. Secondary services, identified in the agreement, are provided to positively maximize the employment outcome.

Provide one-on-one and group-based employment-focused direct services to consumers in the designated state. Service is provided in a format, such as face-to-face or virtual training, that is mutually agreed upon with the consumer based on their communication preference that is appropriate for the particular area of training;

Work collaboratively with local service providers and local community partners to develop a team to execute Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Community Partners may include Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), community rehabilitation programs (CRPs), schools for the deaf and schools for the blind, CILs, and other entities.

Provide additional direct services as needed which may include assistive technology (AT), instrumental activities of daily living (ADL) assistance, self-advocacy training, and other casework as determined on a case-by-case basis.

Assist with identifying service gaps and unmet needs of consumers with HKNC Regional Representative and community partners.

Assist with providing outreach opportunities to educate Vocational Rehabilitation personnel about the capabilities of deaf-blind individuals and share HKNC programs and services.

Be the liaison and professional trainer to work with the Helen Keller National Center and Vocational Rehabilitation, and home team members to support a consumer transitioning back to home community after completion of HKNC on campus training (includes residential and employment domains). In addition to, but not limited to, supported employment, customized integrated employment and other areas requested by training goals for successful outcomes.

 Assist with providing training and mentorship to the community and state employment specialists to expand awareness, knowledge, and advocacy efforts about work-site related accommodations.  Work with VR and businesses to create work experience opportunities, leading to employment.

Collaborate with consumers and community partners to identify deaf-blind youth and adults for inclusion in the HKNC National Registry.

Assist with identifying professional learning opportunities and assist with the initial assessments for trainings needed in the state. This may include support from IRPD, assisting with coordination and provision of training.

Assist with working collaboratively with HKNC Vocational Services and National Employment and Business Relations Specialist to implement best practices in the state/or region, where appropriate;

Assist with coordinating the Deaf-Blind Projects working with transition age youth, their families and educational personnel, linking educational team with VR and other resources including HKNC and adult services in the community. Attend IEP meetings, if necessary.

Work jointly with the Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience (DBIE) coordinator for referral, implementation of follow up recommendations and continued follow up training for home team providers;

Responsible for other duties, as may be assigned or requested by his/her immediate supervisor, Assistant Director of Field Services, or Director of Field Services.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE**

Bachelor’s degree in vocational rehabilitation, special education or a closely related degree with three to five years of experience;

Basic computer proficiency required including File Maker Pro, Outlook, MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint);

**PREFERRED EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE**

Certification in good standing with emphasis in employment services, including ACRE and/or CESP;

Familiarity with the designated state’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services Agencies;

Fluency in communication methodsused by people who are deaf-blind, (including, but not limited to): American Sign Language (ASL), and sign languagein English word order.

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