



Job Description

FAMILY PEER SUPPORT ADVOCATE

Position Summary

The Family Peer Support Advocate works in partnership with the program team and families with children experiencing social, emotional, developmental and/or behavioral challenges to facilitate communication and help ensure that the child's interests are best represented in all settings.

Responsibilities:

- Provides outreach and information, engagement, bridging and transition support, self-advocacy, self-efficacy and empowerment, community connections and natural supports, parent skill development, and promotion of effective family-driven practice;
- Conducts intakes and administers assessments
- Provides individual and family advocacy on site, at satellite sites, in the field or in the home;
- Runs family education and support groups;
- Oversees and coordinates any required surveys, studies, etc. re the program;
- Participates in interdisciplinary team rounds and conferences;
- Refers children/families to ancillary services;
- Represents the program at collaborative interagency meetings;
- Provides consultation and advocacy for children in inpatient, residential and independent living situations, including on-site visits and discharge meetings as needed;
- Accompanies children/families to offsite activities;
- Maintains records in an accurate and timely manner in accordance with regulations;
- Maintains and disseminates information on community resources;

General responsibilities:

- Attends workshops, conferences and staff development training seminars on current practices as directed by the Executive Director or supervisor to acquire continuing education in the appropriate field; implements what has been learned;
- Maintains cooperative relationships with all referents and community resources
- Undertakes related duties as assigned;

Administrative Relationship

The Family Peer Support Advocate reports directly to Program Coordinator or designee for supervision and collaborates with other staff.



Qualifications

High School Degree or equivalent required; some college/bachelor's degree and peer advocacy training and/or some experience working in the mental health field preferred. Must have New York State Family Peer Advocate Credential or be eligible for this credential, and be able to demonstrate lived experience as the parent or primary caregiver who has navigated multiple child serving systems on behalf of their child(ren) with social, emotional, developmental, health and/or behavioral healthcare needs. The ability to model principles of recovery and wellness are required. Applicant must be able to draw on his/her own personal experience while being able to transcend own personal events to articulate the experience of the served individual. Must have computer literacy and excellent verbal and written skills. Valid driver's license and use of own car required. Must be able to travel in the community and access families in their own home.