

Family Peer Support Worker

Job Description

Job Title: Family Peer Support Worker (FPSW)

Purpose of the Position:

The Family Peer Support Worker (FPSW) supports parents and other primary caregivers to ensure that their voice is heard, that their preferences are incorporated into their children's plans of care, and that their natural support systems are strengthened. The FPSW helps families gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to effectively manage their own needs and ultimately move to more family independence. The FPSW serves as a role model demonstrating effective relationships, interactions, and behaviors, sharing his or her experience as appropriate to establish a bond based on similar experience.

The Family Peer Support Worker uses a strengths-based and culturally sensitive approach that recognizes individual youth and family identity, cultural history, life experiences, beliefs, and preferences.

Essential Functions - The Family Peer Support Worker:

- Engages parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers in Wraparound or other service delivery processes.
- Promotes parent, legal guardian, and other primary caregiver participation in meetings and other activities.
- Supports parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers to build skills and self-efficacy
- Models effective personal interactions and behavior and parenting skills
- Assists parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers in identifying their strengths and resiliencies in order to effectively articulate those strengths and prioritize their needs.
- Assists parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers in identifying community and natural resources.
- Helps parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers in identifying and engaging advocates and supporters as part of their team
- Teaches parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers how to effectively navigate complex service delivery systems including juvenile justice, child protective services, education, physical health, behavioral health, and others.
- Informs parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers of service options; explains their differences and purposes for informed decision making; and explains relevant terms and conditions related to service options.
- Encourages parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers to access services and supports the family in overcoming access barriers when needed.
- Assists parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers in meeting the child's educational needs through written requests for special education and other evaluations and attending education related meetings.
- Assists parents in crisis response and stabilization as needed.
- Prepares parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers for juvenile justice preliminary inquiries, meetings and hearings.

- Empowers parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers to effectively build upon their child's strengths through role-modeling of persuasive self-advocacy skills and facilitating collaborative working relationships with professionals.
- Maintains verbal or written communication on behalf of families with physical health and behavioral health providers, Juvenile Probation Officers, Protective Service Specialists, Education Administrators, Community Support Specialists or other providers as needed.
- Procures signed Releases of Information from parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers to ensure parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers permission to acquire assessments and records or to communicate with other agencies or organizations.
- Completes documents and maintains case files in accordance with agency policies and contractual agreements.
- Adheres to Code of Professional Conduct.
- Organizes support groups, educational opportunities or social gatherings as requested
- Recruits parents, legal guardians, and other primary caregivers and youth to advocacy and systems level work as requested.
- Maintains confidentiality of family and youth information except in cases of suspected neglect and/or abuse or exploitation of the vulnerable.
- Other duties as assigned.

Position Requirements:

Family Peer Support Workers are primary caregivers who have “lived-experience” of being actively involved in raising a child who experiences emotional, behavioral, mental health and/or substance use challenges. This includes young people with neurobiological differences as well as those diagnosed with a serious emotional disorder or substance abuse disorder. Family Peer Support Workers have experience navigating child-serving systems and have received specialized training to empower other families who are raising children with similar experiences. Specific requirements include:

- Successful completion of a 40 hour training program
- 18 years of age or older
- Valid New Mexico mailing address
- Valid New Mexico Positive Driver's License
- High school diploma or GED
- Parent or other family member of a child or youth who has received a diagnosis of Serious Emotional Disturbance and has received mental health and/or substance use treatment and support services.
- Ability to manage your own well being
- Parent or other family member of a child or youth who has received a diagnosis of Serious Emotional Disturbance and has received mental health and/or substance use treatment and support services, before the age of 18.