

Position Description: Kentucky Family Peer Support Specialist

Notation: Following is the position description for the Kentucky Family Peer Support Specialist position, which is approved by the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

Summary

The Kentucky Family Peer Support Specialist (KFSS) position is with the local community mental health center (CMHC). A Kentucky Family Peer Support Specialist is a biological parent, adoptive parent, or relative caregiver with permanent legal custody who is raising or has raised a child with an emotional, social, behavioral, and/or substance use disability; and whose child has been a consumer of at least one state-funded service for children with an emotional, social, behavioral, and/or substance use disability. The Specialist will provide mentoring and support to parents/caregivers through various modalities, and will work toward enhancing family involvement within the child-serving system of care.

Responsibilities

Duties

- Serve as an active member or a consultant of a child's treatment team for obtaining needed supports and services that will enhance the system of care; as needed.
- Assist with provision of wraparound process by:
 - Advocating for community support and change where client is disadvantaged,
 - Collaborating and consulting with IMPACT staff, client-team members, other professionals, and community partners and agencies.
 - Assisting with development and implementation of interagency service plans, as needed.
- Provide encouragement and support to parents/caregivers, as needed and identified by parent/caregiver, offering the opportunity to share their stories and modeling effective coping techniques.
- Create and/or formalize a network of parents/caregivers of children with emotional disabilities in order to help empower parents/caregivers in obtaining needed supports and services by cultivating and strengthening parent/caregivers' skills and abilities.
 - This networking may include local parent/caregivers' support groups, training/workshop events, retreats, or newsletters.
 - Skills and ability training may include self-advocacy and leadership skills, such as goal-setting, communication skills, making informed and independent choices, and gaining information and support from the community.
- Provide parent/family-friendly resource information regarding topics/issues of mental health diagnoses, current social issues/concerns, medication/treatment options, other community support groups and resources.
 - This may be accomplished through newsletters, workshops, handouts, brochures, or the development of a website.
- Develop and/or organize training to enhance parent/professional partnerships. Training may include:
 - Orientation to the local Kentucky IMPACT Program
 - System of Care Philosophy which includes Wraparound Process, Family Driven and Youth Guided Principles, etc.
 - Empowerment and self-determination
 - Cultural diversity
 - Collaboration and legal rights in education

(Continued)

- Attend state-wide meetings identified by the statewide family network, such as OFL sponsored Support Specialist meetings and State Family Advisory Council (SFAC) Meetings.
- Attend selected RIAC, LIAC, and SIAC meetings, when appropriate or required.
- Maintain appropriate documentation and records. For Medicaid billable services, receive oversight from Qualified Mental Health Professional, if required.
- Maintain communication with Opportunities for Family Leadership (OFL) and complete reports required for various grants.
- Complete any other related duties as assigned.

Key Role Interactions

- Work with mental health professionals and partnering agencies to ensure the integrity of Family-Driven and Youth-Guided Practices within the system of care.
- Assist with recruitment and training of parent representatives for the regional and local councils.
- Identify emerging parent leaders and encourage them to participate in opportunities at local, regional, state, and/or national levels.
- Collaborate with the Youth Peer Support Specialist, when appropriate.

General Guidelines

- Promote the philosophy and guiding principles of the System of Care Philosophy which includes Wraparound Process, Family Driven and Youth Guided Principles, etc.
- Maintain professional competency through ongoing coaching and training.
 - Yearly training hours expected are (to be determined)
- Maintain required supervision that may be required by CMHC

Qualifications, Knowledge and Skill Requirements

- Parent, biological or adoptive, or relative caregiver with permanent legal custody who is raising or has raised a child with an emotional, social, behavioral, and/or substance use disability; and whose child has been a consumer of at least one state-funded service for children with an emotional disability.
- All Family Peer Support Specialist must successfully complete the core competency training administered by the statewide family network and are required to seek continuous professional development training in order to maintain professional status and meet Medicaid and/or SIAC requirements.
- Minimum of high-school diploma or GED.
- Organizational abilities.
- Willing to work flexible hours and to travel within the region served. Good communication and writing potential, with the ability to communicate and relate well to parents, children, and professionals, including ability to listen well, to negotiate, and to remain objective.
- A non-judgmental attitude toward children with SED and their families.
- Ability to work with families from diverse cultural, religious, racial and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Demonstrate flexibility and problem-solving skills – ability to deal with situations that arise.
- Personal characteristics that include commonsense, ability to adhere to policies, procedures and code of ethics, healthy boundaries, enthusiastic, team player, willingness to learn, open minded, ability to transfer leadership in an empowering way.

Required Additional Training/Coaching (time-limited)

Understanding System of Care philosophy which includes Wraparound process, family-driven, and youth guided principles, etc.