

Family Support Specialist Juvenile Justice, Hampden/Worcester County

The Family Support Specialist is responsible for providing support to families that increases their ability to find and obtain services for their children and family and fosters their ability to participate as equal partners on treatment teams and community groups. The Family Support Specialist will lead family support efforts with PPAL staff, in partnership with individual families as well as community stakeholders.

Preference will be given to family members of children, adolescents and adults with mental health needs. Must have transportation. Bilingual preferred.

Duties:

- Provide information and referral to families and professionals around resources and services.
- Empower families to advocate for their own child and family by providing and/or creating skill building opportunities.
- Assist in creating a voice for families in Massachusetts in the implementation of system change.
- Prepare parents to represent the voice of families who have children with behavioral health needs on various committees.
- Assist Project Coordinator: Juvenile Justice in Family Support Leadership activities.
- Attend monthly meeting on steering committee's with JDAI
- Attend and be involved in training families in telling their own story
- Attend detention facilities in the region to engage parents
- Collect data as required
- Assists with special projects, as needed.

Qualifications:

- Ability to relate to diverse groups of parents, professionals and policymakers
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to work in a demanding environment and the flexibility to adapt to frequent changes in priorities and daily activities
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Ability to work collaboratively with a wide variety of people in complex situations.
- Some college preferred

This is a 20 hour per week contractor position.



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