PPAL
Parent/Professional Advocacy League

Job Description: Family Support Specialist - Contractor
Job Type: Full/Part Time (20 hours week)

Have you traveled or are you traveling the mental health journey with your child, youth, or young adult? Do you feel passionate about helping other families who are doing the same and making a positive impact on systems and services? If so, then this job may be for you!

Parent/Professional Advocacy League, Inc. (PPAL) is a vibrant, impactful nonprofit working to make life better for families of children, youth, and young adults with mental health needs. PPAL works with families throughout Massachusetts who need help navigating services in mental health, juvenile justice, school, and other systems, at no cost to them. We work in close partnership with other community and state agencies with the goals of supporting families, nurturing parent leaders, and improving systems. More information about PPAL can be found at https://ppal.net.

As a Family Support Specialist (FSS), you would be responsible for (i) providing information, support, and education to parents/caregivers in obtaining services for their children and family with mental health needs and becoming the best advocate they can be for their child(ren); (ii) doing outreach in the community to reduce mental health stigma and make PPAL's services known; and (iii) participating in policy/systems meetings and events to influence improvement in mental health access and services in MA. PPAL will provide training.

The Family Support Specialist ***must***:

- have experience raising a child, youth, or young adult with emotional, behavioral or mental health needs
- have a steadfast commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- embrace and celebrate all cultures, ethnicities, languages, gender identities, sexual preferences, ages, lifestyles, and abilities - all families are important and treated with respect
- have a strong desire to support PPAL's mission of improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and families
- be able to work some evenings and weekends
- have access to reliable transportation
- have reliable home internet access
- Bilingual is a must

This position is currently hybrid – office (Westborough, MA), home, and community-based - generally during Monday – Friday business hours. You must be flexible in your ability to be in the office, in the community, and at required meetings.

Interested? Here are some of the things you would be doing:

- Working with families one-on-one to provide emotional support, referral resources, and education around the mental health system, appropriate services for their family, their child's rights, school-related issues, skill-building, effective communication, and advocacy at the local and state levels.
- Facilitating support groups and workshops for families as needed.
- Outreach in the community to schools, organizations, and professionals to inform them of PPAL's services and reduce mental health stigma.
- Representing PPAL and family voice always in a positive and professional manner; consistently communicating PPAL's mission and vision as a representative of family voice in mental health.
- Promoting diversity in culture, religion, race, education, socioeconomics, and gender identity and expression, among others, and regularly demonstrating cultural humility, a desire to learn, and a desire to effectively address disproportionality and barriers to equality.

If this describes you, then let's talk! Submit your resume and a cover letter (including your personal experience with children's mental health) to apply@ppal.net.

This is a 20 hour a week contractor position with a salary range of $20 to $22 per hour.