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Family Peer Advocacy



**Hudson Valley Community-Based
Behavioral Health and Prevention Services**

...Because every child deserves a childhood.

What is Family Peer Support?

Family Peer Support Services are an array of services and supports provided to families raising a child or young adult up to age 21 who is experiencing social, emotional, addiction, or behavioral health challenges in their home, school, community and/or placement. The family must be enrolled in our Families Together Program.

This service provides a structured, strength-based relationship between a credentialed Family Peer Advocate and the parent/caregiver for the benefit of the child/youth. The purpose of this service is to support the parent/caregiver and enhance their skills so they can promote positive youth functioning and their child's ability to live successfully in their community.

Who Provides Family Peer Support Services?

A New York State Credentialed Family Peer Advocate (FPA) delivers Family Peer Support Services for families whose children have been involved in many systems including mental health, addiction, special education, juvenile justice, and child welfare. Family Peer Advocates have lived experience as a parent or primary caregiver who has navigated these multiple child serving systems on behalf of their child(ren).



Principles of Family Peer Support Services

Is Individualized.

Tailored to the specific needs of parents and families; demonstrates willingness to continuously assess and learn about families' needs, incorporating what is learned into working flexibly with them.

Makes Connections.

Facilitates connections to services, agencies, activities, training and other families.

Is Respectful and Culturally Competent.

Listens without judgment to families' ideas, preferences, and decisions and acknowledges families' struggles, efforts and successes; accepts and honors differences.

Builds Skills.

Creates a safe environment that fosters growth and empowerment; develops competent mental health consumers through training, mentorship and activities.

Builds Knowledge.

Provides current information, resources and appropriate interventions to help parents in their own decision-making.

Is Engaging.

Invests in parent involvement and actively partners with families.

Solution Focused.

Focuses on identifying needs and solutions; bridges successes of the past and options for continued success.

Focuses on Outcomes and Success.

Goal-oriented, hopeful and encouraging; monitors outcomes in line with what families want.

Broadens Horizons.

Expands possibilities for parental involvement at multiple levels and cultivates a community of peer support.

Promotes Advocacy.

Informs policymakers and providers as part of a larger advocacy community.

What are Family Peer Support Services?

There are six categories of Family Peer Support Services. A Family Peer Support Provider has the capacity to offer all six categories of services based on the individual needs and preferences of the family.

1. Outreach and Information
2. Engagement, Bridging and Transition Support
3. Self-Advocacy, Self-Belief and Empowerment
4. Community Connections and Natural Supports
5. Parent Skill Development
6. Promoting Effective Family-Driven Practice

Ulster County Counseling Centers

Ellenville Counseling Center

Trudy Resnick Farber Bldg
50 Center Street
Ellenville, NY 12428
Tel: (845) 647-3349
Tuesday - Thursday 9-8

New Paltz Counseling Center

137 N. Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561
Tel: (845) 419-0850
Monday - Thursday 9-8, Friday 9-5

Kingston Counseling Center

239 Golden Hill Lane, Suite 100
Kingston, NY 12401
Tel: (845) 340-4105
Monday - Thursday 9-8, Friday 9-5

