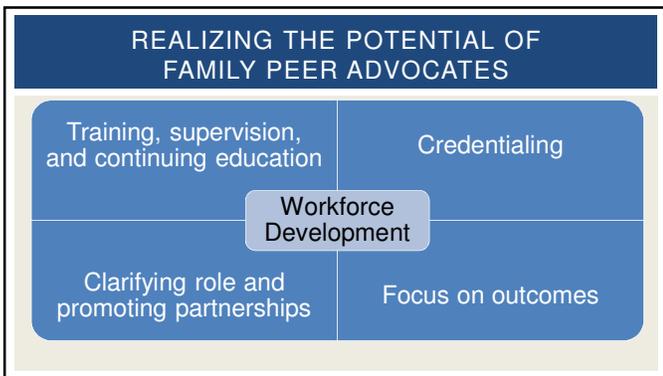


NEW YORK STATE FAMILY PEER ADVOCATE CREDENTIAL



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New York State
Coalition for
Children's Mental
Health Services
+
Saratoga Springs
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WHY DOES LIVED-EXPERIENCE MATTER?

- Empathy
- Credibility
- Reduces blame and stigma
- Understands feeling powerless
- Diversity
- Different boundaries
- Knowledge of the community and informal resources
- Recognition of imperceptible but important strengths
- Sense for the steps to empowerment
- Family voice
- Special focus on the *parent's* experience of care
- Inspires hope

WHAT FAMILIES SAY

- *She pushed me harder than anything and I took it because she had walked that road too.*
- *I just wanted it to get better fast and it was hard to accept that it wasn't, but we just set some small goals to start with.*
- *For awhile, my family support worker, believed in me more than I believed in me.*
- *My parent advocate told me I wasn't a bad parent. It seemed she was the only one who thought that.*
- *My parent partner did what she said she would do – she helped me while other people were helping my son.*
- *We were not welcome anywhere anymore. I was angry and my kids were out of control. At family support people didn't mind. I could relax a little bit.*
- *It was hard placing my daughter in residential. Our family advocate had had the same experience so she understood how it feels awful and like a relief at the same time.*

IN ADDITION TO LIVED EXPERIENCE....

- Strong in core competencies
- Values and beliefs about families and role
- Partnership skills
- Learning how and when to use one's story
- Building a network across all systems
- Community outreach and engagement strategies
- Supervision to stay focused and strong
- Ability to follow practice models that support positive outcomes

A GROWING EVIDENCE BASE

Targeted Parenting Assistance (Kansas)
Family Assessment of Needs and Strengths – FANS (Western NY)
Parent Connectors (Florida)

- Lower dropout rates
- Reduced recidivism to detention
- Lower risk of out-of-home placement
- Improved retention in mental health services
- Fewer missed appointments
- Reduced lengths of stay in foster care
- Benefits for caregivers: health, capacity to navigate, self-efficacy
- More likely to be have successful reunifications
- Parents better understand their child's challenges and service options





Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) Training

- 18 Clinical and Family Partner Trainers
- Developed by advocates, researchers and clinicians specifically for FPAs
- 40 hours classroom training
- 12 hours consultation calls
- 400 trained since 2005
- Nationally recognized



Contact us at www.ftnys.org for more information or to sign up for a future PEP training.

Long Island 2013 PEP Training

Family Peer Support Services

(Note the Blue Sky!)



FPA's work in: RTFs, CRs, Independent Family-Run Organizations, Not-for-Profit Agencies, County Mental Health, Schools, Hospitals, Clinics, Crisis Teams, Pediatrician's Offices, Social Services, Substance Abuse, Probation and Detention Programs.



220 Credentialed Family Peer Advocates

Over 100 Family Support Programs

Tracking outcomes

Cross System Vision

Partnerships

10 Parent Advisors in 5 OMH Regions

Families Together in NYS - Statewide Organization and Chapters

Independent and Embedded

Research Agenda

New Opportunities for FS

Family Peer Support Services

WHY THE FPA CREDENTIAL?

- Establishes core competencies
- Defines the scope of practice
- Assures families and employers that an advocate has met established minimum standards
- Creates a professional code of ethics
- Promotes ongoing professional development
- Promotes professional affiliation and advancement
- Expands reimbursement opportunities for peer family support services

FAMILY PEER ADVOCATE CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Completion of PEP Training**
 - 40 hrs. and consultation calls demonstrating application of skills
- **Three letters of references**
 - One from supervisor
 - Two other professional references
- **Statement of Lived Experience**
 - Describe your experience navigating multiple systems .
 - Describe how your experience informs your work with other families.
- **1000 Hours of Experience as FPA**
 - Document work as an FPA
 - 1000 hours = 6 months full time or 1 year half-time
- **High School Diploma or GED**
 - Or, in certain instances, documentation of comparable skills
- **Professional Development Plan**
 - Self-assessment of strengths and areas for professional growth
- **FPA Code of Ethics**
 - Signed agreement to adhere to the code of ethics
- **Professional Development Plan**
 - Self-assessment of strengths and areas for professional growth
- **Continuing Education**
 - 30 hours documented at the time of three-year FPA Credential renewal

FPA CREDENTIAL AND THE HCBS WAIVER

- Required for all new hires beginning November 1, 2013
- PEP Training as soon as it is offered in the region after hiring.
- Obtain the FPA Credential within two years of hiring.
- While not required for those hired prior to November 2013, all HCBS Waiver FPSS providers of Family Peer Support Services are encouraged to complete the PEP training and become credentialed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Who Administers? Families Together in NYS
- Cost? \$150 in 2013. \$175 in 2014
- Is PEP Training = Credentialing? No, but it is one requirement.
- Is the FPA Credential required? Increasingly, yes.
 - Required for HCBS Waiver Family Peer Support
 - Required for Residential Family Peer Support
- Is there a deadline? Applications can be submitted at any time.
- Is there an exam? Not at this time.
- Do I have to renew my FPA Credential? Yes, every three years.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Affordable Care Act

- Increase number of families eligible for Medicaid
- Health Exchanges

NYS Medicaid Redesign

- Family Support as a billable service
- OCFS and OASAS

Regional Centers of Excellence

- Potential increase in number and role of facility parent advisors
- Potential increase in community-based family support assigned to State Facilities

Sustainability of Family Support

SUSTAINING AND GROWING FAMILY PEER SUPPORT

- Nimble and creative in changing environment
- Seek out new sources of revenue
- Stay grounded in principles while open to change
- Grow the workforce
- Ambassadors for new approaches to care
- Attend to outcomes
- New skills to function in an evolving business context
- Deepening family-centered and family-driven practice

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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