

Family Peer Advocate

Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Inc.

210 Court Street, Watertown, NY 13601

JOB DESCRIPTION TITLE: Family Peer Advocate

JOB SUMMARY: The Family Peer Advocate is responsible for assisting parents of children with disabilities, schools, and community service providers in learning community programs and understanding their rights and responsibilities in the education setting. This includes ways in which parents can affect and influence the services their children receive.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES:

1. Encourage parents to learn and understand state and federal education laws
 2. Provide individual advocacy for parents and children in the medical and educational settings
 3. Assist parents to access and understand community services and resources
 4. Obtain appropriate training and maintain information on laws, policies, and practices pertaining to IDEA, special education and youth services
 5. Arrange education for families about topics related to their child's disability and their rights and responsibilities.
 6. Assist parents of children with disabilities to advocate for new initiatives, always striving for creative solutions to barriers
 7. Facilitate meetings between service providers and families as necessary
 8. Maintain community linkages with service providers, schools, and the juvenile justice system
 9. Maintain and measure child and family outcomes
 10. Complete all required documentation
 11. Travel to home visits and school meetings as required
- Additional Job Duties
1. Organize and facilitate at least one parent support group.
 2. Represent NRCIL at public forums, meetings, and in the community
 3. Identify systemic issues and create plans to address these issues within the education, disability related systems, DSS and probation systems
 4. Engage families to become involved in NRCIL programs and participate in Center activities and advocacy efforts
 5. Exhibit excellent communication skills both written and verbal
 6. Perform such additional duties as may fall within the scope of said position and ability of employee as requested by Program Director and Executive Director
 7. Model and initiate the learning of self-advocacy skills
 8. Obtain Family Peer Advocate Certification

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree plus three years' work experience preferred or appropriate combination of skills, experience, and education. Advocate must have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must be organized, able to work independently and meet deadlines as well as have experience working or advocating in educational settings and have functional knowledge of

IDEA. Driver's license and personal vehicle or means of travel required. Applicant must be the parent of a child (ren) with disability. All staff must be committed to the independent living philosophy. Must pass background check.

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