

JOB DESCRIPTION

FAMILY PRESERVATION WORKER

Definition of Position:

Under the agency's policies and professional requirements, the Bachelor or Master Level Family Preservation Worker will provide hands-on assistance and education in a variety of areas relating to family functioning. These areas may include parenting, communication skills, home environment, personal hygiene, nutrition and meal planning, employment, budgeting and school issues/attendance and recreation. Some assistance with transportation may be necessary. The target population to be served are those families and children involved with the Division of Child Services. Services may be provided within the context of a home-based family preservation program which utilizes a strengths-based solution-focused model.

Major Responsibilities and Related Tasks:

- I. Direct-Line Services
 - A. Assist with the development of an Initial Assessment and Plan of Service which outlines the family background strengths, concerns and recommendations.
 - B. Provide intensive, hands-on assistance and education (several times a week) to the family in an effort to successfully complete their goals.
 - C. Provide transportation as necessary.
 - D. Provide crisis intervention as necessary. Available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.
 - E. Participate in case conferences, school conferences and court appearances with the family as requested.
 - F. Provide family advocacy as needed.
 - G. Participant in ongoing assessment and evaluation of the family's goals.

- II. Client Information System
 - A. Provide necessary client information to referring department and the family (contact logs, reports, case updates).
 - B. Establish and maintain appropriate professional files which provide all necessary documentation regarding the family.
 - C. Maintain weekly update with Supervisor regarding all cases.

- III. Team/Supervision Meetings
 - A. Participate in monthly staff meetings.
 - B. Participate in monthly in-house training sessions.
 - C. Participate in field supervision with the Supervisor every six weeks.
 - D. Participate in weekly face-to face supervision with Supervisor.

Knowledge and Skills

Activities are governed through a professional code of ethics and rules of confidentiality. A thorough knowledge in the areas of family functioning as mentioned in the Description of Position is expected with emphasis in home-based service delivery. Effective skills should be demonstrated in dealing with families involved in abuse/neglect situations as well as those involved in juvenile delinquency issues. A thorough knowledge of community resources is expected.

Training and Experience

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, sociology, or a directly related area and under the direct weekly supervision of a person with a Masters degree in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or a directly related area. On-going education and training will be required. Worker must be culturally competent.

In addition to:

- Knowledge of child abuse and neglect and child and adult development
- Knowledge of community resources and ability to work as a team member
- Belief in helping clients change their circumstances, not just adapt to them.
- Belief in adoption as a viable means to build families.
- Understanding regarding issues that are specific and unique to adoptions such as loss, mismatched expectations and flexibility, entitlement, gratification delaying, flexible parental roles and humor.