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Family Advocacy Training and Support



Family Advocacy Training and Support Program

The Family Advocacy, Training and Support program focuses on being a gap and needs based program to help people and families increase independence in a variety of skill areas. Staff work with care coordinators, families, and people in need of support to identify the gaps that can limit receiving health equity in areas including communication, nutrition, education, housing, medical/health, language barriers and immigration refugee services.

Family Advocacy Training and Support Program

People Inc. Family Advocacy Services is a program through NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Participants must reside with a family member to be eligible for this program and NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) eligibility.

Immigration/Refugee Services:

Our service delivery model continues to focus on identification of gaps that are inhibiting people and families from achieving the social determinants of health. Our staff supports people from various cultures/minorities who require language support in a variety of settings and provides education about their right to translation services in health and other settings, which is required by law. We also work with families in assisting in the citizenship process and linking families to the appropriate resources.

Medical/Health Needs:

Support and training are provided to people and their families who face challenges with healthcare or medical appointments and/or settings. Once barriers or gaps are identified, staff provide training to navigate medical settings by ensuring proper information is shared about questions that may be asked during appointments, requesting translation, and developing systems to manage multiple appointments. Staff will advocate for the people they support and inform them of their healthcare rights. Additionally, staff will review transportation solutions, necessary training and community linkages provided, while working in partnership with care coordinators. Staff will provide follow-up and support to care coordinators after meetings and appointments.

Educational Needs:

Our staff educates parents/guardians about the advocacy process and trains them to advocate for their children. We also act as a support between families and school districts by assisting in identifying needs and providing the student with the level of education necessary to facilitate learning in their zone of proximal development.

For students who are transitioning out of high school, our staff works with care coordinators, admissions, and families to help identify the appropriate OPWDD services based upon their vocational and cognitive abilities identified in school settings.

Everyone has unique educational developmental needs that our staff works with to ensure they will receive the appropriate service. Staff will communicate with teachers and families to obtain information about the student's academic needs and will adjust guidance accordingly. Staff will offer suggestions for improvement and ensuring additional resources are given to improve the individual's quality of life. Ultimately serving as a link between the school and the individual, staff will assist the student to make improvements in their life, develop their skills and improve their social and emotional well-being. Staff will work to execute functioning skills (planning, task initiation, time management, organization, self-management etc.) that need to be addressed to increase independence at school and in the community.

Family Support Services Informational Sessions:

Information and resources are available to families who need support in a variety of areas including:

- Financial Benefits for Individuals with developmental disabilities
- Guardianship Wills and Trust
- Building a Career Path for your child: Discovery of career services
- Understanding positive parenting approaches to decrease challenging behaviors and increase desired behaviors
- How to deal with grief
- Care giver stress and burnout: Helping caregivers take care of themselves
- Self-Care for Encouraging independence in your child
- Self-Advocacy: Helping your child find their voice
- Making decisions together: Looking at support decision making
- Practical person: Centered training with your teen
- Deaf culture and language
- Transitional planning for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing

Contact

For more information about Family Advocacy Training and Support, contact the Admissions Department at admissions@people-inc.org toll-free 833.404.0032.

