

Van Buren Community Mental Health
NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Effective: March 31, 2020

Title: Parent Advocacy Specialist

Position Number: C508170

Program: New Outlook	Office Location: Hartford	Status: Regular Full-Time, 37.5 hrs/wk
Union: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Benefits: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Salary Scale: \$42,956-56,048 per year

Basic Responsibilities:

The Parent Advocacy Specialist will provide services in accordance with the Quality Legal Representation (QLR) grant to improve outcomes for children that are involved with Child Protective Services. The two primary objectives are to avoid removal of children from their home and to reduce the amount of time children spend in out-of-home placements. The Parent Advocacy Specialist is an integral part of the parent's legal defense team. Parents in these cases face allegations of child maltreatment, ranging from neglect to abuse, and may present with heightened needs for behavioral health and/or substance use disorder treatment. The Parent Advocacy Specialist focuses on addressing underlying issues that brought the family into the child welfare system, promotes community-based preventive resources and restorative solutions that meaningfully strengthen families, teaches problem solving skills to the parent, supports the parent in complying with the case services plan, and assists the parent in navigating the legal process. The Parent Advocacy Specialist will promote the preservation of family relationships and provide clinical consultation to attorneys to address families' complex needs.

Summary of Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree in an appropriate human services field with at least two years of relevant experience.
- Clinical understanding of mental health, substance use disorders, domestic violence, and family systems.
- Demonstrated knowledge of neglect/abuse issues and organizational and family systems and/or social work practices as it relates to family systems.
- Demonstrated understanding of and experience working with the child welfare system and juvenile court proceedings.
- Possess and maintain valid Michigan driver's license with approved record.

Summary of Essential Job Functions:


- Assess and advocate for family's needs and goals & provide assessment information to legal counsel.
- Perform assessments to determine client's psychological, social, emotional, educational and economic needs.
- Engage with and motivate parents to participate in the dependency and neglect process.
- Accompany parents to meetings and court hearings, interfacing with various service providers to proactively address challenges.
- Advocate for parents outside of court and with community organizations, making referrals as appropriate.
- Assist in developing and presenting alternative treatment plans to the court.
- Assist parents in problem solving and teach parent problem solving skills.
- Support and observe parent/child visits and conduct home visits as needed.
- Monitor and document client progress and prepare and maintain all necessary case data and reports.
- Provide clinical consultation to the attorney to develop case strategies and support litigation.

To apply, submit your resume and cover letter to the HR Office:

Human Resources Office, 801 Hazen Street, Suite C, PO Box 249, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Contact: Christine Johnson at (269) 655-3313 or cjohnson@vbcmh.com

Approved by:


Debra Hess, CEO

Equal Opportunity Employer

