



Position Title: Family Advocate

Reports to: Director of Advocacy Services

Position Description: The Family Advocate is responsible for providing developmentally and culturally appropriate family advocacy support services to non-offending caregivers of child victims of alleged sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, and/or witness to these events and/or homicide. The Family Advocate will work closely with non-offending caregivers, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy (GCCA) staff, and members of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) to coordinate recommended intervention services, identify barriers that may prevent the family from receiving services, and advocate for immediate service implementation so that caregivers may act responsibly to protect and support the child. Family Advocacy services at GCCA focus on both the immediate and ongoing needs of children and families served by the agency.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Establish a trusting relationship with assigned high-risk families by initiating contact at the time of the forensic interview or other initial services offered by GCCA and by maintaining regular client contact and rapport.
2. Provide crisis intervention and emotional support to non-offending caregivers at the time of the forensic interview or other initial service offered by GCCA.
3. Educate non-offending caregivers about relevant forms of child abuse, trauma, and the various systems that may become involved with the family.
4. Coordinate with forensic interviewer to assess needs of the family and conduct the child's mental health screening.
5. Identify community resources and establish strong professional relationships with other agencies through regular and ongoing communication. Update provider lists and evaluate potential referral sources based upon established evaluation tools.
6. Partnering with the caregiver, assess needs of families, create a case plan, and connect the caregiver with community resources, ensuring that resources are accessible and appropriate. This includes acting as a liaison between families and community agencies and assisting with making appointments to access community resources.
7. Work closely with the DeKalb County MDT to ensure that concerns arising during the bi-weekly case review meeting are addressed with the family.
8. Receive referrals from and work closely with GCCA therapists to ensure that concerns identified by therapists are addressed with the families.
9. Record pertinent information related to client contact and agency intervention in a complete and concise manner in client's electronic file in the case tracking system.
10. Attend regular staff meetings, in-service trainings, and other meetings as required.

Job Specifications

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Demonstrate effectiveness at working with difficult clients by exhibiting empathy and warmth
- Work well under pressure while maintaining a positive attitude
- Have a working knowledge of family dynamics, dynamics of child sexual abuse, neglect, crisis intervention, and trauma
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize case management skills to directly benefit clients
- Possess strong time management and organizational skills to independently manage workload and related responsibilities

- Ability to enter information in electronic case management database
- Possess strong interpersonal and communication skills, demonstrating ability to work as a team member and effectively problem solve on behalf of children and families
- Demonstrate maturity in interpersonal staff and supervisory relationships
- Maintain strict standards of confidentiality

Education and Experience:

- Master's degree in Social Work (preferred) or related field or undergraduate degree in relevant field with at least three years' case management experience
- Experience working with multidisciplinary teams and community providers strongly desired
- Experience in the field of child maltreatment and trauma strongly desired
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) language skills strongly desired

Job Location:

- This position will serve families at the DeKalb County location of GCCA

Resumé Submission

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resumé via email to:

Amy R. Shipp, LCSW
Director of Family Advocacy Services
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
amys@gacfca.org

The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy has a vaccine mandate in place as of January 3, 2022.