

Community Youth Services is recruiting for a full-time Family Partner/Peer Counselor for its Transitional Age Youth (TAY) program based in Olympia. A Family Partner is a certified Peer counselor who has lived experience as a caregiver of a youth who is now in recovery from mental illness. We are seeking a Family Partner who can provide valuable insights from their personal experience to caregivers coping with a child that is experiencing severe and persistent mental illnesses. The Family Partner supports caregivers by providing hope, validation, skill building and modeling. This position is a professional provider within a mental health program as part of a treatment team.

- Provides home and community based peer counselor services to caregivers of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in Thurston and Mason counties (driving required.)
- Supports caregivers in a non-judgemental , strength-based way.
- Shares own experiences from their journey as a caregiver in order to instill a sense of hope and empowerment.
- Engages caregivers in the treatment process within the youth-driven/family-guided model assisting them in adapting their role as the youth transitions to adolescence and adulthood and works towards achieving stability and/or recovery.
- Encourages and models the development of a strong natural support system and provide coaching on navigating systems.
- Refers caregiver to individual mental health services and other community resources when needed.
- Participates on an integrated treatment team for youth receive Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe). This youth-driven/family-guided, team-based approach joins with the youth, and any supports or providers in their life, to create a single cross-systems care plan.

POSITION QUALIFICATIONS:

- Be a person with **lived experience** as a biological/adoptive/step parent, kin or other “forever” person in the parent role – who has been the primary caregiver of a youth with emotional or behavioral challenges who received Mental Health Services
- Requires Washington State Certification as a Family Partner – Peer Counselor. Certification includes completion of a specialized 40-hour training provided or contracted by the Mental Health Division and the successful passing of an examination.
- Experience working within a teaching/coaching, advocacy and mentoring role while maintaining strong professional boundaries.
- Experience working with multiple systems.
- Candidates are required to obtain and maintain both certified peer counselor and Agency Affiliated Counselor licenses. Preferences will be given to applicants with both licenses.
- This position requires driving in the community, valid Washington driver’s license required.
- Must be able to work a somewhat flexible schedule with evenings and weekends appointments.

TRAINING PROVIDED:

- Training in aspects of our therapy model, Managing and Adapting Practices (MAP)

- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment training and certification
- Wraparound with Intensive Services (WiSe) training
- Pathways Transition Provider Training for working with adolescents and young adults
- Ongoing training and professional development in as a peer counselor

About the Program:

This position provides mental health counseling for youth age 15-24 and their families in the Transitional Age Youth Support Program (TAY) as part of our Integrated Counseling Division. <http://www.communityyouthservices.org/TAY.shtml>

About the Agency:

Community Youth Services is the largest child welfare agency serving southwest Washington, employing over 155 staff and supporting 120 volunteers. Our 20+ programs help youth with: housing, placement stabilization, family preservation, foster care, education, job training, employment, independent living skills, delinquent behaviors, shelter, and basic needs. About 4,000 youth – and their families – seek our services annually in their transition to become independent, successful adult members of society.

CYS provides a staff driven culture where we view our staff as our greatest asset in providing quality services, which shows in our 95% staff retention rate.

Check out our benefit package on our website

<http://www.communityyouthservices.org/employment.shtml>

TO APPLY: Please reference Olympia Family Partner in your email subject line.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION:

1. Resume
2. Cover letter which presents your lived experience as a caregiver of a youth who is in now in recovery from mental illness.
2. CYS Employment Application <http://www.communityyouthservices.org/employment.shtml>
There are two versions on our website – a fillable Word version and a printable pdf version. You can submit either one.

You will need to submit a driver's abstract before an interview will be scheduled.

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