



# Family Life Counseling and psychiatric services

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## Counseling that Makes a Difference

### I. DEFINITION

The Ohio START Family Peer Mentor helps families navigate the child welfare and other systems by providing peer support and promoting healing to keep children safe and families together.

### II. RESPONSIBLE TO

The Ohio START Family Peer Mentor serves families referred to the public children services agency (PCSA) due to child maltreatment with substance abuse being the primary risk factor. The Ohio START Family Peer Mentor also serves as a member of the local START team along with the child welfare caseworker, child welfare supervisor, and behavioral health service provider.

### III. QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrate long term recover (at least 2 years is required, 3 years preferred) from a substance use disorder
- Have earned a minimum education level of GED
- Demonstrate no ongoing criminal activity
- Have lived experience with the child welfare system as a parent, with the case close at least one year, or indirect lived experience with the child welfare system. Indirect lived experience means the candidate navigated a system (mental health, SUD recovery, public benefits, court, etc.) coupled with 1) intervention by a relative who to informal/formal custody of their child(ren), 2) an understanding of how their substance use/recovery affected their own children, 3) raising a child of a relative/friend with a substance use disorder
- Maintain a current driver's license; and
- Be certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as an Ohio Peer Recovery Supporter or agree and have the ability to become certified upon hiring.

### IV.

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participate as an active member of the Ohio START team
- Assist with the safety of the child(ren) by working collaboratively with the Ohio START case worker and behavioral health provider to ensure the seamless and efficient delivery of intensive wrap-around services to the START families on their caseload
- Participate in initial meetings, weekly status meeting and Family Team Meetings to review families' progress and child safety in their respective cases
- Provide continual exploration of the family's needs to empower the family to take ownership over their long-term successes and the safety of the child(ren)



Family Life Counseling and Psychiatric Services is a non-profit charitable corporation, 501(c)(3).

Offices also in Bellevue, Danville, Galion, Loudonville, Millersburg, Mount Vernon, Norwalk, Shelby, Willard

- Support the parent(s) to achieve personal independence
- Connect START families to community resources
- Teach families skills to effectively navigate the child welfare system
- Assist families to identify and access natural support systems in the community
- Promote coordination and linkage among providers within local community
- Coordinate access to crisis intervention services and assist with family stabilization
- Teach START families self-advocacy and empowerment skills
- Identify barriers (internal and external) to full participation in community resources and develop strategies to overcome those barriers
- Provide input on court forms as needed; and
- Provide input on development of the case plan and child safety

**V. THE START FAMILY PEER MENTOR SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OR BE ABLE TO OBTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- Alcohol and drugs (pharmacology)
- Behaviors associated with addiction
- Court processes
- Diversity
- Ethics
- Family dynamics
- Family Team Meetings
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)
- Human behavior
- Local resources and services
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Navigating Systems
- Pathology of addiction
- Process of recovery
- Ohio START Program
- Self-help programs
- Signs of child abuse and neglect
- Trauma informed care
- Behavioral health and/or substance use treatment options

**VI. THE START FAMILY PEER MENTOR SHOULD HAVE SKILLS IN:**

- Advocacy
- Coaching
- Communication (Listening, verbal, nonverbal, written)
- Coping
- Crisis Intervention
- Cultural competency
- De-escalation
- Driving
- Motivational Interviewing
- Multi-tasking
- Negotiation
- Networking
- Observation
- Parenting
- Problem solving
- Professionalism
- Setting personal/professional boundaries
- Time management

## VII. THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL POSSESS THE FOLLOWING TRAITS:

- Common sense
- Compassion
- Creativity
- Empathy
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Non-judgmental
- Open-minded
- Patience
- Personable
- Positivity
- Professional courage
- Relatability
- Self-motivation
- Sympathy
- Tolerance

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