Parent Peer Support Provider Roles

Parent peer support (PPS) is a caregiver to caregiver approach to supporting families caring for children, youth and young adults with mental health or substance use challenges. PPS is provided by a parent or caregiver with lived experience who is trained to assist other families by providing support, identifying resources, and facilitating access to services for the child and family. PPS can be offered individually or as part of a team.

Parent peer support is a critical component of a system of care for children and youth, builds effective engagement and can facilitate more positive outcomes for a family. This unique workforce can be found in a variety of settings including: family-run organizations, mental health centers, foster care programs, juvenile courts, emergency rooms, schools, state and local government entities, and residential treatment programs. PPS positions are typically funded through federal and state funds, contracts, grants and Medicaid.

PPS Providers have roles at all levels of service intensity, from community outreach to inpatient hospitalization, infusing family voice and family support at all levels.

Least Intensity Level Services

- Education, information and referral
- Peer supervision and program management
- Policy-making and advocacy
- Data collection and evaluation

Low Intensity Level Services

- Training
- Support groups
- Information and referral
- Intake
- Peer supervision and program management
- Data collection and evaluation
- Policy-making and advocacy

Medium Intensity Level Services

- Individual advocacy, information and system navigation, intake and assessment
- Parent peer support (individual and/or team)
- Care coordination
- Training
- Support groups
- Respite and crisis planning
- Peer supervision and program management
- Policy-making and advocacy
- Data collection and evaluation

High Intensity Level Services

- Partner in intensive in home services (such as High Fidelity Wraparound, HomeBuilders, etc.)
- Parent peer support (part of a treatment team or additional service) in hospitals, residential treatment programs and emergency rooms
- Respite and crisis planning
- Training
- Support groups
- Peer supervision and program management
- Policy-making and advocacy
- Data collection and evaluation

