



Athens THRIVE – Parent Engagement Advocate Job Description

Job Title: Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Athens– Athens THRIVE Infant and Toddler Court Program – Parent Engagement Advocate
Reports to: Athens THRIVE Community Coordinator
Position Type: Part-Time Independent Contractor
Anticipated start date: Dec 15, 2024

Rate: \$20hr

To apply, e-mail cover letter, resume, and 3 references to jobs@fc-cis.org. Interviews and selection will follow. Open until filled. No calls, please.

The Parent Engagement Advocate provides Peer Support Services (PSS) to families in the Athens THRIVE program. The Parent Engagement Advocate fosters a culture that values and integrates lived experiences, in both child welfare and substance use disorders, empowering parental voices in reunification efforts and permanency planning. They work collaboratively with staff and community partners to amplify parent voices, influence policy, and enhance equity within the child welfare system. Parent Engagement Advocates have firsthand experience navigating the child welfare system, with no [current] open dependency cases, are CARES (Georgia Council for Recovery) certified, and demonstrate personal and family stability.

Responsibilities:

- Help families understand Athens THRIVE and the Safe Babies Approach by working with them to set goals, find services, and work collaboratively to achieve their desired outcome
- Willingness to share your own recovery experiences to build trust, support personal choice, model good communication, and mentor those in the program
- Take part in and lead meetings, in coordination with the Community Coordinator, like THRIVE Meetings, Active Community Team meetings, and court hearings, while working alongside other agencies.
- Help families build support systems by connecting them with resource parents, service agencies, and the community
- Offer individualized, trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and peer-driven services in collaboration with community agencies. Provide individual support, advocacy, and help manage crises while addressing obstacles to growth, accessing services, and case progress
- Work with recovery community organizations to build relationships, support recovery planning, and connect people to resources. Maintain and grow connections with Recovery Community Organizations, and substance use disorder treatment providers

- Keep records of activities and program progress through case notes, service logs, and data collection
- Use community and online resources to give families information about mental health, child welfare, and related issues
- Educate and engage foster parent agencies, and resource families on Athens THRIVE. Encourage collaboration between resource parents and biological families, promoting teamwork and partnership parenting
- Advocate for system changes and strengthen community partnerships by participating in cross-system collaboration. Build partnerships to create lasting improvements, including involving parents in policy development and practice implementation

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or GED
- Must be a Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES) with the ability to meet CEU requirements. Maintain long-term stable recovery, with 2+ years sobriety
- Must have experience in the child welfare system, previous involvement, with 2+ years post reunification
- May see clients in-home, when applicable
- Commitment to the mission of Family Connection-Communities In Schools of Athens and Athens THRIVE
- Strong understanding of the Athens community, the population to be served, and the community systems that serve youth and families, including schools, health systems, human services, and others
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Valid driver's license, access to reliable transportation, and proof of adequate auto insurance coverage. Local area travel required
- Ability to work both independently and with a team. Must be able to work collaboratively in an office environment/shared space
- Must pass criminal background check
- Ability to engage in any additional training and enrichment opportunities, and the ability to develop skills through clinical/reflective supervision, peer review, observation, and continuing education
 - CPS (GMHCN) training and certification expected after hire
 - MHFA (GMHCN) training expected after hire
 - Trauma-Informed Care (GMHCN) training expected after hire
- Must maintain confidentiality to ensure participant privacy
- Ability to adhere to policies and procedures in the FC-CIS Employee Handbook.
- Additional duties may be required as requested by the supervisor or agency director to enhance agency operations. Attend agency meetings, staffing's, community events, and conferences when necessary
- Strong attention to detail, quality, and timely task completion
- Demonstrated ability to advocate effectively within systems while maintaining diplomacy. Ability to develop and sustain relationships with community support organizations
- Must be able to manage boundaries in relationships and make adjustments in accordance with guidance provided by team leadership and support resources

- Strong written and verbal communication skills; proficiency in MS Office, Google Suite, and video conferencing
- Experience in addiction recovery and understanding of recovery-oriented care systems, including medication assisted treatments/recovery practices
- Cultural competency and experience in diverse populations with a commitment to treating all individuals with dignity and respect

Family Connection-Communities In Schools of Athens is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression, family responsibilities, physical or mental disability, or political affiliation.