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supports and services
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Family Peer Support Services

January 2019

Overview of Peer Support:

Peer Support services provide an opportunity for an individual to offer an array of supports to a peer that is based on sharing similar lived experiences, making an emotional connection, sharing information and knowledge, and providing mentor opportunities to help develop skills that promote resiliency and positive outcomes.

Family Peer Support Service through DDD:

- is a new peer-based service offered through the Division of Developmental Disabilities through the Partnership for Hope Waiver, which was effective July 1, 2018;
- is managed through a DDD contracted provider; and
- is a service delivered by a Family Support Partner (FSP) who is hired by a contracted provider agency.

What is the role of the Family Support Partner (FSP)?

- A FSP provides non-clinical peer support to a family by sharing valuable personal lived experiences in supporting and providing care to a family member with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).
- The FSP works to support and enhance the family's skills so they can effectively understand and contribute to various planning processes and access services that will better promote positive outcomes, which results in their family member's ability to live successfully in their home and community.

A Family Support Partner (FSP) can:

- help educate a family on how to effectively support their family member with I/DD and meet their family's needs;
- assist a family in identifying their strengths;
- assist a family to actively participate in identifying and planning for current and future needs of their family member with I/DD;

A Family Support Partner (FSP) can:

- assist a family in navigating through the DD and other related systems;
- assist a family in learning how to problem solve;
- assist a family in becoming better advocates for their family and family member; and
- assist a family in becoming more resilient.

Family Support Partner (FSP) qualifications:

- must be a parent or family member of a person with an I/DD;
- must have at least five years of lived experience in supporting and providing care to their family member with an I/DD;
- must be at least 18-years-old and have a high school diploma or its equivalent (or actively working to meet requirement);

Family Support Partner (FSP) qualifications (cont'd):

- must attend a 3-day training that is scheduled and coordinated by DMH staff and covers an approved peer support curriculum;
- Note: agency staff who will be overseeing or supervising the FSP for their agency is also required to attend the 3-day training in order to provide adequate oversight to the position;

Family Support Partner (FSP) qualifications (cont'd):

- must pass all required criminal and background checks;
- successfully attend and complete orientation, attend DMH approved training, and pass certification exam related to position (after attending the 3-day training); and
- have access to transportation in order to meet functions of position.

Who is eligible to receive Family Peer Support Services?

- FSP services can be provided to a parent/family whose family member is participating in the Partnership for Hope Waiver.
- A FSP can work with an individual family or with up to four different families in a small group as long as their family member is participating in the Partnership for Hope Waiver.
- FSP services must be identified as a need for an individual and their parent/family unit and authorized in the family member's Individualized Support Plan (ISP) and budget.
- Limitations: a FSP shall not deliver the service within their immediate or extended family.

Examples of Family Peer Support services:

Providing Family Peer Support Services:

- An organization that is interested in providing Family Peer Support services should communicate with the Provider Relations liaison at their respective Regional Office to determine steps for obtaining a contract or to add the FSP service to an existing contract. Regional Office facilities can be located at: <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/facilities/>
- To read additional information about Family Peer Support services, view Provider Bulletin #15 at: <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/providerbulletin15.pdf>

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Thank you!