



Job Posting:
Youth Partner – Contra Costa County
Post Date: 3/14/19

Overview:

The goal of the Youth Partner program is to hire, as staff, youths who have experienced the child welfare services system and can provide support to youths and families receiving child welfare services. The Youth Partners will be trained and supported to provide direct services to clients by providing mentoring, guidance, and advocacy. Youth Partners can be flexible in the roles they play and in responding to a range of need youth might present. The principal goal of their work is to help youth gain awareness of their rights and responsibilities, assist in connecting with supportive services, and to aid them in achieving favorable outcomes.

Youth Partners carry out their roles in four distinct ways: (1) As a mentor for youth currently involved in the system to help them navigate the complicated Child Welfare System and ensure their mental wellness needs are met; (2) As a “youth voice” when participating on various committees and workgroups; (3) As a trainer to provide training to youths and various groups, and (4) As a recruiter of other youths who potentially can participate as partners in community outreach activities. The Youth Partners enhance the work they do by sharing their own perspectives and real-life experiences as appropriate. Youth Partners are committed to helping young adults develop supportive relationships and enhance the abilities to draw on their strengths and available resources.

In addition to their first-hand experience within the child welfare system, Youth Partners will have exhibited exceptional qualities in their understanding of how the child welfare system works, an understanding of the mental health system, and an appreciation of what it takes to be successful.

The preferred Youth Partner candidate will possess a positive attitude, integrity, sincerity, and a willingness to help others. In order to be considered for this position, the Youth Partner’s case must be closed and they must be maintaining stability in their life.

Duties:

Youth Partners can offer a wealth of knowledge and experience in the following ways:

1. As youth advocates, the Youth Partners will mentor youth currently involved in the child welfare system that are eligible for, in need of, or are receiving mental health services. It is expected that Youth Partners will attend Youth Transition Meetings and Child and Family Team meetings.
2. As youth leaders, the Youth Partners will act as the “youth voice” as participants on various committees and workgroups, offering input that represents youths’ perspectives and interests.



3. As youth leaders, Youth Partners will identify and recruit other youths who potentially could participate as partners in community outreach activities.
4. Connect with social worker about any progress or obstacles.

More specifically, Youth Partners will:

- Regularly meet with the Youth Partner Supervisor
- Provide Youth Partner Supervisor documentation and correspondence in an organized, accurate, and timely fashion
- Provide advocacy, support, and referral service during 1:1 contact. Youth Partners will meet with youth on an as-needed basis
- Be willing and able to attend court appearances and meetings when requested by the youth
- Attend trainings and conferences and participate in professional development opportunities
- Attend various county meetings
- Shadow social workers
- Make necessary contacts in order to review pertinent information and communicate with appropriate stakeholders
- Assess the youth and determine the youth's needs. Youth Partners will serve as a knowledgeable source of community resources
- Document all contacts and interactions with youth in designated computer system. Documentation must be accurate and provided in a timely matter, which will also be available for Youth Partner Supervisor to review
- Encourage and support youths' positive behavior and celebrate their successes
- Youth Partners will attend meetings, including committees and workgroups as requested and will offer input that represents youths' perspective and interests
- Help with and attend special events as required
- Follow through all assignments

Required knowledge and abilities:

- Demonstrate knowledge and willingness of how to successfully implement concepts presented in orientation and training
- Possess, or be willing to learn, "professional behavior" elements, e.g. ability to work with people, ability to clearly communicate with people, maintain client confidentiality, and engage in respectful interactions
- Possess a willingness to participate in professional development activities, including regular supervision, performance evaluations that measure professional growth
- Possess good interpersonal skills



- Possess knowledge of, or life experience in, the child welfare system and mental health system and/or comprehend the benefits of receiving mental health services when indicated
- Exhibit qualities of dependability, empathy, accountability, respect, and maintain a positive and supportive attitude
- Possess, or be willing to develop, the skills necessary to discuss their experiences in the workgroups and on panels
- Be willing to use opportunities available and presented for his/her self-care

Minimum Qualifications:

- Diploma or GED, and/or current enrollment in college or university or employment and training program
- Over 21 years of age
- Experience: Applicant must have personal life experience as a youth who has been involved in the Child Welfare system. Experience in or understanding of the mental health system is a plus
- Reliable transportation is required. A valid California driver's license and automobile insurance is required.

An hourly rate will be paid for the work performed. Youth Partners will report directly to Contra Costa County EHSD Children and Family Services Supportive Services Supervisor, Heidi Wintermantel.

The salary range for this position is dependent upon experience. A medical stipend of \$300 is offered per month. A phone stipend of \$50.00 is also included. This position offers annual increases given positive performance evaluations. Please note that this position is funded through the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County in partnership with Contra Costa County EHSD Children and Family Services.

This position will be accepting applications until March 29, 2019 at 5:00 PM. Please submit your resume and cover letter as attachments in PDF format to Carol Carrillo at info@capc-coco.org