

FAMILY ADVOCACY

AND SUPPORT



Adelphoi 

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The primary goal of the Family Advocacy and Support Program is to bring families through a strength-focused process that will help them reach their desired goals, whether that is related to parent/child advocacy or parent mentor support. To achieve the goals laid out, there are two levels of care that a family can participate. The Parent Mentor and Child/Parent advocate levels of care provide a supportive, family-centered approach that respects the family's culture and values. The Family Advocacy and Support Program will work with the family to identify the service they need as well as connect and develop their natural supports and community resources (family, friends, and faith).

INCLUSIONARY CRITERIA

- Family is a resident of Westmoreland County.
- Someone residing in the home has a history of mental health involvement.
- There must be at least one youth in the home between the ages of birth and twenty one years.



REFERRAL PROCESS

A call can be made to the program by a parent or system/stakeholder representative that is interested in referring a child or family to the service. The supervisor will take initial information from them, and set up a time for an initial meeting to introduce the child and family to the program and what it can do to help them. If the child and family agree they want the service, the supervisor will enroll them in the program and the parent advocate will set up the first meeting.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Both the Parent Mentor and Advocate services are grounded in the concepts that involves identifying and contacting family and community supports available to the family, empowering them to make decisions with the guidance and assistance of the caseworker, rather than relying on the caseworker to dictate or formulate goals and directives for the family.

- Identify family strengths. Families can change. Strengths are what ultimately resolve concerns.
- Families are experts on themselves, and as a result are more likely to follow through on a plan that they own.
- Empower families. People gain a sense of hope when they feel someone has listened to them. Talking about options is preferable to giving advice.
- Each family will develop their own plan that the advocate or mentor will use as a guide to assist the family move toward the achievement of the goals they set for themselves.



PARENT MENTOR LEVEL OF SERVICE HAS THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

- Assist families of newly diagnosed children who need assistance identifying and accessing services.
- Assist families of newly diagnosed children or those that have been involved some time in the behavioral health system who need help identifying natural family and community supports.
- Collaborate with other systems to streamline goals and family tasks.

PARENT CHILD ADVOCATE LEVEL OF SERVICE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

- Assist families of newly diagnosed children who need assistance understanding their child's diagnosis as well as how to maneuver the various systems their child interfaces with, such as school, community and behavioral health.
- Advocate for families when their child needs Individual Education Plans or specialized services in their school setting.
- Educate families on mental health laws rules and regulations as they pertain to their child.
- Empower families with the tools they need to express their point of view when their opinion is needed for treatment, placement and educational decisions.
- Endorse the CASSP principles around being child centered and family focused.

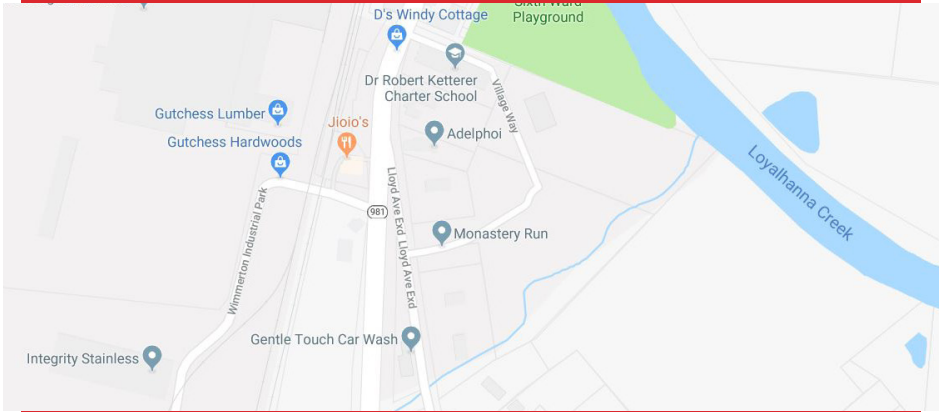
DISCHARGE PLANNING

At the start of services, the Parent Mentor/ Parent Advocate will meet with the client/ family to discuss goals and projected length of stay as well as begin the process of identifying natural supports as well as any additional services they may need to sustain their progress once the parent/child advocate or parent mentor are no longer involved.

ON-CALL SUPPORT

Adelphoi has Licensed Independent Practitioners on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week who are available to assist the parent mentor or child/parent advocates in the field when they need immediate support or assistance in the case of a mental health emergency.





ABOUT ADELPHOI

Adelphoi is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a continuum of quality services to children, youth, and families. Headquartered in Latrobe, PA, Adelphoi has programs in 30 counties, serving nearly 1,000 youth and families on a daily basis and over 2,500 children annually. Adelphoi's vast continuum of care includes group homes, a Charter School, foster and adoption services, education programs, mental health services, after-school programs, in-home services, shelter care, multisystemic therapy, and secure care.

Adelphoi has over 700 employees and assists persons and communities in need from over 60 counties throughout the Commonwealth, as well as from Ohio and Delaware. Adelphoi's mission: Offering outcome-based solutions for abused, neglected, delinquent and other at-risk children and their families through a continuum of treatment and education services that provide a foundation of hope for the future.

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