



Description of Responsibilities

Position Title: Lead Family Advocate

Supervisor: Program Director

The mission of Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC) is to provide all reported victims of child sexual abuse in Baltimore and their non-offending caretakers with comprehensive forensic interviews, medical treatment, and mental health treatment with a goal of preventing future abuse.

Summary:

A child's experience with the criminal judicial process may take 6 months to 2 years to resolve after a disclosure of abuse. The focus of victim support and advocacy is to help reduce trauma for the child and non-offending family members and to improve outcomes. As a case proceeds through the lengthy process coordinated victim advocacy services encourage access to and participation in investigation, prosecution, treatment and support services and thus are a necessary component in the MDT's response. Up-to-date information and ongoing support is critical to a child and family's comfort and ability to participate in intervention and treatment.

Victim support and advocacy may include but is not limited to:

- Crisis intervention and support at all stages of investigation and prosecution
- Attendance and/or coordination of interviews and/or case review
- Greeting and orientation of children to the CAC
- Provision of education about the coordinated, multidisciplinary response
- Providing updates to the family on case status, continuances, dispositions, sentencing, offender release from custody
- Assessment of the child's/family's attitudes and feelings about participation in the investigation/prosecution
- Provision of court education/support/accompaniment
- Providing tours of the courthouse/courtroom
- Securing transportation to interviews, court, treatment and other case-related meetings
- Assistance in procuring concrete services not already provided (housing, protective orders, domestic violence intervention, food, crime victims compensation, transportation, public assistance etc.)
- Providing referrals for mental health and medical treatment

Other Responsibilities include:

- The Lead Family Advocate brings an advanced understanding of child development and an ability to coordinate service provision among multiple state agencies.

- Working with representatives from the State's Attorney's Office, Police Department, and Child Protective Services of Baltimore City to establish a system by which case data is shared for use in advocacy efforts
- Acting as a liaison to sustain positive working relationships with community service providers such as mental health, social service, and health care agencies
- Participate in MDT case review staffing and trainings
- Maintain client records to reflect service plan, client interaction, and referrals made
- Supervise others participating in the delivery of family advocacy
- Willingness to make (accompanied) home visits when necessary
- Provide treatment as needed

Education & Skills Required:

- Licensed mental health professional
- 2 -3 years professional experience
- Supervisory experience
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Knowledge of child development & experience in the field of child welfare
- Ability to work independently
- Bilingual English/Spanish helpful

Additional:

- This position is 40 hours/week and may include some evening hours
- Equal Opportunity Employer
- Health benefits and parking available