

FAMILY AND YOUTH PARTNERHIP

EMPOWERING YOUTH AND ENSURING FAMILIES HAVE “VOICE AND CHOICE” IN THEIR SERVICES



FAMILY PARTNERS AND YOUTH ADVOCATES (PEER SUPPORTS) OFFER THEIR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND ADVOCACY SKILLS AS A VALUABLE LAYER OF SUPPORT TO THE YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN ALL STANFORD SIERRA YOUTH & FAMILIES’ PROGRAMS.

Family Partners are staff members who have personal experience in the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems—either firsthand or as a parent/caregiver. Youth Advocates are young adults also employed by Stanford Sierra Youth & Families who have personal experience within the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems. Having similar experiences in their past, these important peer supports empower young people and their families to lead their own care teams to get their needs met.

PEER PARTNER ROLES:

Family Partners and Youth Advocates have four key functions:

- To make families (parents, caregivers, and youth) equal partners — if not leaders — in the development and implementation of their service plans;
- To represent the needs and perspectives of families (parents, caregivers, and youth) to internal and external stakeholders and decision makers within the system of care;
- To ensure that families (parents, caregivers, and youth) have access to a comprehensive array of prevention and support services that meet their individual needs; and
- To ensure services are family-centered, easily accessible, respectful of cultural, ethnic and other community characteristics, and stigma-free.

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PEER-LED SERVICES:

- **Parent Support Groups**
 - Free monthly peer- to-peer support groups designed to empower parents and caregivers to become advocates for their children and leaders in their communities.
- **Shared Leadership**
 - A partnership of a group of committed Parent Leaders that work with the Family and Youth Partnership team to provide meaningful feedback and expertise on any areas that impact families and the community.
- **Resilient Youth Speak Out (RYSO)**
 - A youth advisory council that teaches transitional-age youth important independent living, social, and leadership skills.
- **Peer Parent Services**
 - Parent Partner Services: This program's goals are to engage parents more fully in the child welfare case planning and services process; provide information to parents to help them navigate the child welfare system and understand their rights and responsibilities; and provide support, modeling, and linkages to assist families in meeting their safety, permanency, and well-being goals. This service is available to families with child welfare cases in El Dorado, Napa, and Solano counties.
- **Housing**
 - SSYAF's Housing Navigator Coordinators are an integral part of our Mental Health Programs (Wraparound and Flexible Integrated Treatment (FIT)). They serve families by actively collaborating with Mental Health treatment teams and connecting them to resources to secure stable, permanent housing. .
- **Wonder:**
 - Wonder is a one-on-one mentoring program serving youth impacted by foster care, by connecting them with consistent, caring adults. Our mentors are there to listen, support, and guide each child through fun, age-appropriate experiences. Children who participate in the program are called "Explorers" and the adults who volunteer and serve as mentors are called "Guides." Together, they participate in a journey of fun and exploration filled with Wonder moments.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact our FYP Program Director at (916) 344-0199.