

Parent Leader

Position Description

Purpose:

Parent leaders are parents who have first-hand experience with the Child Welfare system, and who have an understanding of how the Child Welfare system works, an appreciation of what it takes to be successful, and personal qualities that lend themselves to collaboration on various levels. The preferred parent leader candidate will possess a positive attitude, sincerity, and a willingness to help others. In order to be considered for this position, the parent leader's case must be closed, and he/she must be maintaining family stability. Parent leaders will represent the "parent voice" as participants in grant activities.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Values working in a multicultural/diverse population.
- Ability to communicate in a professional manner.
- Ability to role model advocacy for parents in the Child Welfare system.
- Prioritize and be respectful of commitments made.
- Openness to feedback.
- Ability to handle confidential information and situations in a calm and professional manner.
- Ability to focus on parental strengths in promoting change.
- Demonstrate ability to work as a member of a team.
- Empower and encourage others to understand the benefit of family involvement.
- Encourage parents in understanding the boundaries and expectations of DHS.
- Attend scheduled parent leader meetings.
- Attend and/or co-facilitate trainings or presentations as requested.
- Participate in advisory committees as requested.
- Model and encourage direct, professional communication.
- Possess, or be willing to learn, "professional behavior" elements (e.g. ability to work with people, ability to clearly communicate with people, maintain confidentiality, engage in respectful interaction.)

- Possess good interpersonal skills
- Exhibit qualities of dependability, empathy, genuineness, respect, and maintain a positive and supportive attitude.
- Possess, or be willing to develop the leadership skills necessary to discuss their experiences in workgroups and on panels.
- Keep information about other HOPE members confidential.

Education and Experience Requirements:

- Experience and basic knowledge of the DHS Child Welfare system.
- A minimum of one year clean and sober, if addiction was a presenting issue.
- High school diploma or GED, **OR** high school level writing and reading skills preferred but not required.
- A closed DHS Child Welfare case for at least six months unless an exception is granted by the Child Welfare program manager.

July 25, 2007