

POSITION Treatment Foster Parent

POSITION SUMMARY The ever increasing needs of troubled youth from troubled families dictates the development of therapeutic foster homes operated by professionally trained care givers.

PURPOSE:

The over-riding purpose of treatment by a therapeutic foster parent is crisis stabilization in a safe/nurturing environment, rebuilding decision making skills, and creating/advocating for permanency planning for the foster child.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES include, but are not limited to:

1. Complete a formal, structured pre-service training program before accepting children into the home. The content and extent to be decided by Oesterlen in conjunction with licensing requirements.
2. Participate in regularly scheduled in-service training and supervision thereafter.
3. Accept responsibility for a key role in the therapeutic foster care network such as crisis management, educational liaison, etc.
4. Work with the rest of the treatment team towards reunification with the biological parents, adoption, or independent living as appropriate
5. Assist in treatment plan development, implementation, and record maintenance.
6. Work with biological/adoptive parents, as appropriate.
7. Provide youth with structure and limits, including appropriate role modeling, to encourage responsibility and self control.
8. Assist in youth learning how to live in a family and community.
9. Incorporate youth into therapeutic foster family similar to a natural child by providing supervision, transportation, nurturing, advocacy, spiritual guidance, etc.
10. Teach alternative behaviors for inappropriate and unrealistic behaviors by encouraging critical thinking and appropriate follow through.
11. Promote self respect and maturity by building self-esteem/self worth.
12. Accept additional, temporary assignments from supervisor and/or Director of Community Services.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must be over 21 years of age, in good physical/mental health, motivated to work with severely troubled and multi-problem youth. High school education required, college work and previous experience working with youth helpful. One parent of the Therapeutic Foster Family must be at home or available 24 hours a day.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Work can be fairly active depending on client's degree of disturbance and daily schedule. Pressure is moderate with some local travel required. Stress increases with acceptance of additional responsibilities and number of own children. Foster network responsibilities will dictate other staff interactions.

JOB RELATIONS

Responsible to:	Coordinator of Therapeutic Foster Care / Independent Living
Supervises:	None
Promoted from:	No formal line of promotion
Promoted to:	No formal line of promotion

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