



Child and Family Specialist

Introduction

The Child and Family Specialist works closely with other supervisory staff to assist in developing programs and services that directly impact the children staying in Bridges Therapeutic Foster Homes and Bridges Independent Living Program. You will spend your days working closely with foster parents, the Assistant Director of Bridges, and the Director of Bridges creating safe and nurturing home environments for children who have experienced trauma. Providing support to our foster parents is integral to the success of our children's programs, so the Child and Family Specialist is expected to make regular visits to the homes and respond to emergency situations.

Qualifications

- A. Bachelor's Degree in a Human Behavior or Social Science curriculum and a minimum of two years' experience in a social service capacity. Supervisory experience preferred.
- B. Knowledge of and experience with group processes and group dynamics.
- C. Ability to provide leadership and direction to subordinates.
- D. Ability to motivate and work cooperatively with other professionals and employees of Bridges.
- E. Ability to work efficiently and accurately while focusing on the needs of the children in the program.

Responsibilities

- A. Provide services to the children of Bridges and Bridges Independent Living Program.
- B. Interview prospective residents for the Bridges Independent Living Program and Therapeutic Foster Care Program.
- C. Provide support to the foster parents in the home & assist with issues as they arise.
- D. Assure close adherence to agency and licensing standards.
- E. Judicious intervention in any crisis situations to assure the safety of children, staff or agency property in accordance with agency practice.
- F. Assure that each resident is assessed as prescribed by agency practice and provided with a treatment plan that meets the individual needs of each child.

- G. Maintain positive communication with parents, referring agencies and collateral agency resources.
- H. Conduct regular inspections of the facilities to ensure a clean and safe environment is maintained.
- I. Responsible for assessing areas for improvement in the program and developing systems with the input of the Bridges Director to remedy those issues.
- J. Perform other duties as assigned.