

## Volunteer FAPT Parent Representative Needed

Parent Representative Needed. Under the Children's Services Act (CSA), parent representatives serve as members of interagency Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPT) and Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMT). In these roles, parents add value to the planning and policy making process by bringing ideas and viewpoints from a parent's/family's perspective. When CSA became law in 1993, Virginia mandated parent representation on teams as part of the interagency planning process. Research demonstrates that children and families have a higher rate of success when parents are involved in the planning and delivery of services. Through the addition of parent representatives, team efforts have been strengthened and child and family successes have increased. Parent representatives provide a unique perspective in creating systems of care for children and their families. Serving as valuable supporters of other parents, parent representatives can be extremely helpful when they have experienced the FAPT process. This first-hand knowledge of the system makes them integral to the policy planning and decision-making process.

**Job Title:** Parent Representative-Family Assessment and Planning Team

**Goal:** Provide a parent perspective when assessing families for services to address troubled youth and families in crisis.

**Duties:** Attend scheduled FAPT meetings. Take an active role in case decisions, service selection and approval of services and funding for at-risk youth and families.

**Qualification:** Preference should be given to a parent of a consumer or former consumer of services from a public child serving agency. Must be a resident of Isle of Wight County. Must have strong communications skills, well-versed and experienced in various issues as it relates to mental or physical special needs of a child or willing to learn. Be confident and willing to speak out in groups consisting of experts reviewing the cases to represent the families of our community. Must be mature, compassionate, dependable, and empathetic and possess the ability to be a team member. Must be capable of remaining objective in emotionally charged situations. Must respect the beliefs and traditions of individuals coming from a wide variety of cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds.

**Time Commitment:** Typically, will consist of attendance at one face-to-face meeting per month and some telephone contacts.

**Training:** Orientation to be provided by the CSA Coordinator. CSA training is available online If you are interested in this position and feel that you have the knowledge, skills, and values to become a valuable member of this important team, please call the CSA Coordinator for Isle of Wight County, Rachel Lewis at 757-514-7335.