



Family Advocate Program Groups

North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center

Children ages 5-18 with severe social, emotional and behavior disorders and their families are eligible to participate. The child must meet criteria for SED with a GAF of 50 or less and have a DSM-IV Diagnosis.

Support is provided to the families of high risk, seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth by Family Advocates (parents of youth with social, emotional and/or behavioral disorders who have firsthand experience with the issues facing parents trying to negotiate the various child-serving systems).

Weekly Parent Support Groups led by a Parent Advocate offers parents mutual peer support by providing an opportunity to meet with other parents dealing with the day in and day out frustrations and challenges they encounter in their daily lives with their children. The group provides an opportunity for an exchange of information as to the available treatments, causes of emotional and behavioral disorders, as well as a psycho-educational forum for parenting skills, and other relevant trainings and presentations regarding how to cope with raising a child with an emotional disability. As a member of the group, parents become strong advocates for their children, receive intensive support, and help develop more natural support systems. A children's activity group (ages 5-12) is run at the same time to provide respite to parents and give the children an opportunity to improve social skills while engaging in an activity. A teen group (ages 13-18) also runs concurrently. A newly formed Sibling Support group meets monthly. Children with siblings with social, emotional, behavioral and developmental disabilities come together to share stories, ideas and feelings. Additionally, an Adolescent Transition group, Mother's group and Father's group is offered as needed.

Groups meet on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 PM September thru July @ North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, 480 Old Westbury Rd, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577. For more information call Margo Posillico Messina LCSW-R, 516-626-1971 ext 370.