

continuous improvement of the quality of services and supports for persons who have developmental disabilities. The teams conduct surveys of consumers of developmental disabilities services, facilitate self-advocacy groups, speak with consumers of developmental disabilities services and family members to determine their levels of satisfaction with services, and educate the community.

Recovery Center

The Recovery Center is person-driven center located in Scranton where persons receiving mental health services come together in an atmosphere of mutual support for the process of supporting their individual Recovery. The Center offers members an environment where they can enhance and expand activities of self advocacy such as Peer Specialists Programs, Mental Health Advanced Directives, and Community Support Programs, as well as develop and implement educational programs on issues relating to mental wellness and Recovery.

Representative Payee Program

The Advocacy Alliance's Representative Payee Program is a system of financial and budgetary management for persons who have a mental illness, persons who have developmental disabilities, and older adults who are unable to manage their monthly Social Security benefits, other benefits and financial affairs.

Vendor/Fiscal Agent Services

The Advocacy Alliance's Vendor/Fiscal Agent Services provide employer related services for persons who have a physical disability, persons who have developmental disabilities or their representatives, and older adults or their representatives. We partner with the person or their representative in the use of self-directed attendant care services by assuring compliance with federal, state and local employer requirements, thereby reducing their burden as employer without diminishing their right of self direction.

WARM LINES

The WARM LINES are a confidential, one-on-one telephone support service for persons who have a mental illness and are experiencing sadness or loneliness or just want to share good news. It is staffed by trained persons who are in Recovery from a mental illness and who understand the needs of their peers.

The Alliance provides services
in the following counties:



★ Advocacy Alliance Offices

The Advocacy Alliance also provides Representative Payee Services outside of our service area in Allegheny, Philadelphia, Westmoreland Counties and New Jersey



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The Advocacy Alliance has a proud history of service. Founded as a Mental Health Association in 1955, we have grown tremendously over the years, expanding our reach to 45 counties in Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Our mission is to promote mental well-being, and support Recovery for adults who have a mental illness; Resiliency for children and adolescents who have emotional/behavioral disorders; Everyday Lives for individuals who have developmental disabilities; and Independence for older adults and individuals with physical disabilities, by providing advocacy and culturally competent services.

Adult Mental Health Advocacy

The Advocacy Alliance's advocates ensure that persons in the community who experience mental illness are heard, serve as their own spokespersons, and that the focus of their treatment, housing and employment is based on their individual needs for Recovery. Our advocates, including Certified Peer Specialists, also work at Clarks Summit State Hospital, with former patients of Allentown State Hospital and in community adult psychiatric in-patient units, helping to see that persons understand their rights, their rights are respected, and their services are helpful.

Child and Family Mental Health Advocacy

The Advocacy Alliance's Children's Mental Health Advocate works with families of children who have emotional/behavioral disorders to help them understand and ensure the protection of their rights in the children's mental health and other child-serving systems of care, as well as at the Youth Development Center at Hickory Run. Our advocate ensures that families' voices are heard and included in the dialogues on the regional, state, and federal levels, the results of which are policies and programs which affect children and their families.

Community Support Program

As Northeast Pennsylvania Region Coordinator for Community Support Program (CSP), the Advocacy Alliance's goal is to educate and to assist local communities in improving opportunities and services for persons who are involved with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. The CSP is a coalition of mental health consumers of services, family members, advocates and professionals who work together to ensure quality of life issues for persons who have a mental illness.

Consumer/Family Satisfaction Teams

The Advocacy Alliance facilitates Recovery and Resiliency focused teams whose expressed purpose is to assess adults' and children's/adolescents' levels of satisfaction with the mental health and/or drug and alcohol services they receive, to inquire as to their wants and needs, and to learn what they think would help in the delivery of services. Survey teams are comprised of individuals and families of individuals who use mental health and/or substance abuse services.

Early Intervention Evaluation Teams

The Advocacy Alliance facilitates teams which include two of the following disciplines: occupational therapy; physical therapy; speech therapy; nursing; and special needs instructors. The teams evaluate children, from birth to 2 years and 9 month of age, to determine if they are eligible for early intervention services. The reasons for children are referred for an evaluation include: speech delay; motor delay; cerebral palsy; torticollis; down syndrome; sensory, behavior, hearing and vision concerns; dwarfism; and failure to thrive.

Guardianship/Trust Services

When adults are adjudicated incapable, a Guardian of Estate is needed to manage the individuals' assets to assure that their needs are met and to protect them from designing persons. The Guardian of Person is needed to assist individuals to live in the least restrictive settings with the necessary support services that can enhance or maintain their care and safety. A Power of Attorney (POA) is a written legal document that allows an individual to appoint someone to be their agent in order to give the person authority to act on the individual's behalf.

The Advocacy Alliance staff provides these services in accordance with the national standards provided by the National Guardianship Association and by the mandates of the court under 20 Pa. Cons. Statue Section 5510 et seq.

The Advocacy Alliance administers Special Needs and other Trusts, including Payback Trusts and Common Law Special Needs Trusts, which are created for individuals who have disabilities who are often in need of preserving their governmental benefits. A trust can provide for supplemental needs to add to the beneficiary's quality of life and ensure the governmental benefits remain in force to provide basic support such as shelter, medical care, and maintenance.

Education Funded Special Needs Trusts are funded by a school district through litigation for educational needs and compensation. These trusts are defined by the trust agreement and if the monies are not spent, they return to the school district.

Currently the Advocacy Alliance is establishing a "Pooled Trust" or "OBRA Trust" for the benefit of individuals who have a disability. These trusts can be joined by the individual, a parent, grandparent, or ordered by the court and can be joined with small amounts of money but pooled to maximize earning potential through investments.

Health Care Quality Units

The Advocacy Alliance facilitates Health Care Quality Units (HCQUs) which work to support and improve the developmental disabilities community service systems by building capacity and competency to meet the physical and behavioral health care needs of persons who have developmental disabilities. The primary activities of the HCQUs include: assessing the person's health and systems of care; providing clinical health care expertise to residential and day program providers; providing health related training; and integrating community health care resources with state and regional quality improvement structures and processes. The primary goal of the HCQUs is to assure that the persons served by developmental disabilities programs are as healthy as they can be, so that each person can fully participate in community life.

Incident Management Services

Incident Management is a subset of a larger risk management process that ensures that the health, safety, and rights of persons receiving developmental disabilities and persons receiving mental health supports and services are respected.

Incident Management is a statewide process for reporting, categorizing and investigating incidents entered in the HCSIS (Home and Community Services Information System) Database System. All reports are reviewed in order to determine that appropriate actions have taken place to protect the individual receiving developmental disabilities and/or mental health supports and services.

Independent Monitoring for Quality Teams

The Advocacy Alliance facilitates teams of consumers of developmental disabilities services, family members, and community volunteers who are dedicated to the