

"Mental health care must focus on increasing the child's ability to successfully cope with life's challenges, facilitating recovery, and building resilience—not just on managing symptoms." (JCAHO, 7/11/05)

The Advocacy Alliance, a Mental Health Association is a private, nonprofit agency founded in 1956. We are dedicated to promoting mental well-being; supporting 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 services.



Toll-Free 1-877-315-6855 www.theadvocacyalliance.org Parents, adolescents (age 14 & over), and professionals may contact:

Katie Spencer

at the Advocacy Alliance

846 Jefferson Avenue Scranton, PA 18510 Tel (570)558-3233 Toll-Free at 1-877-315-6855 Fax (570)558-5598 www.theadvocacyalliance.org email: katies@theadvocacyalliance.org Mental Health Advocacy for Children and Their Families





Toll-Free 1-877-315-6855 www.theadvocacyalliance.org

The Mental Health Advocacy Program for Children and their Families provides information, support, educational information and advocacy to families who are involved in the mental health system in Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties. Families can request this confidential service at no charge to assist them in understanding and navigating the Children's Mental Health System.

The Mental Health Advocacy Program has 4 major components:

- 1. Individual Case Advocacy
- 2. Systems Advocacy
- 3. Parent Education and System Training
- 4. Identification and Resolution of Issues/Trends



A Children's Mental Health

Advocate supports the family's empowerment and recognizes them as the central resource and ultimate decision-maker for the child, by promoting partnership and collaboration among the family and service providers.



The Children's Mental Health

Advocate also works with all child serving systems of care (Children and Youth, Juvenile Justice, Education and Mental Health) to ensure not only children's and families' rights are protected, but also provide assistance with systems' planning and enhancements.



The Mental Health Advocacy Program for Children and their Families promotes cooperation and collaboration among child-serving systems with goals consistent with the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) Principles and the promotion of resiliency.

CASSP Principles

Child-Centered Family-Focused Community-Based Multi-System Culturally Competent Least Restrictive