

# Youth Advisor - The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families

## **Important to note before continuing:**

- 1. This is a youth peer position. Only apply if you have first-hand, lived experience receiving services from the NYC mental health or child welfare systems as a young person, and are willing to draw upon this experience as part of the job.**
- 2. This is a 2-year job opportunity with option for renewal only if funding is available.**

The Bureau of Children, Youth, & Families (CYF) in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) seeks to hire one Youth Advisor to coordinate CYF's efforts to support the expanding Youth Peer Advocate<sup>1</sup> (YPA) workforce and other cross-system initiatives.

The child and family mental health delivery system redesign as a result of Medicaid managed care will make Youth Peer Advocacy a billable service in 2017. In response, DOHMH aims to a) prepare child/youth-serving mental health providers for this new service, b) support efforts underway to develop a comprehensive training, supervision, and credential for Youth Peer Advocates, and c) work alongside youth leaders and youth-led advocacy and advisory groups to appropriately and adequately grow the NYC YPA workforce. CYF is seeking a Youth Advisor to guide these efforts, inform CYF of the needs of the youth community, and advise CYF on how to address those needs during this significant system change.

## **Job Responsibilities:**

- Work at DOHMH but spend >50% of time in the community liaising with youth leaders and stakeholders; conducting needs assessments; facilitating focus groups and learning collaboratives; educating providers; and staying informed of issues related to children, youth, and young adults in the mental health and other cross-systems
- Assist with organizing events and tactics for community outreach and engagement
- Represent DOHMH on the New York State Youth Peer Services Advisory Council as an ex-officio member and other relevant committees
- Support YOUTH POWER! and the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) with the development of the YPA training<sup>2</sup> and credentialing process as needed or requested
- Attend monthly Peer Leadership Support and Development (PLSD) meetings, a free skills-development group for youth peer advocates across NYC
- Coordinate with OMH and key NYC youth stakeholder groups (e.g. YOUTH POWER!, Families on the Move of New York City [FOTM], NAMI-NYC Metro, and other relevant organizations) to create a system for tracking and monitoring the YPA workforce in order to a) develop new job opportunities and b) outreach to youth about this new job opportunity
- Facilitate opportunities for youth to directly engage with key policy and decision makers

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/consumer\\_affairs/transition\\_youth/resources/youth-peer-advocacy.html](https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/consumer_affairs/transition_youth/resources/youth-peer-advocacy.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://ypatraining.youthpowerny.org/>

- Participate in the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to the Citywide Oversight Committee (COC) which is charged with bringing the perspective of young people who receive cross-systems services to the work of the COC and -
  - Potentially start a CYF Youth Advisory Board and assist with the coordination of regular meetings, workshops, and other capacity-building and educational forums and/or -
  - Investigate if other youth advisory bodies exist that could be strengthened or enhanced to include an advisory component to DOHMH in lieu of organizing new/separate body
- Ensure ThriveNYC<sup>3</sup> Peer-related activities include the youth voice and perspective
  - Actively participate in the startup of ThriveNYC's Peer Workforce Consortium
- Other special projects as assigned, in particular those that support transition age youth, CYF's cross-division and cross-system work, and a social media marketing project

**Required skillset:**

- Has first-hand experience receiving services from the NYC mental health or other child-serving systems as a young person
- Is between the ages of 18 and 28
- Has completed / is currently completing a High School or a G.E.D program
- Passionate about supporting youth and advancing their ability to thrive

**Desired skillset:**

- Ability to: work well both independently and in teams; work in a fast-paced environment and juggle multiple priorities; set and meet clear goals; and take initiative
- Demonstrated proficiency with Windows-based computer applications including Microsoft Office
- Interest in and experience using social media to connect youth to resources
- Flexibility in working weekends and evenings (rare)
- Bilingual a plus

**Salary range:** \$50,000-\$52,000

**Applications are due on or before September 1, 2016 or until position is filled. Please send resume and cover letter either via email or mail to:** Kelli Peterman, Prevention & Community Support Specialist

**Via email:**

[kpeterman@health.nyc.gov](mailto:kpeterman@health.nyc.gov)

**Via mail:**

Kelli Peterman, Prevention & Community Support Specialist  
 DOHMH, Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families  
 42-09 28<sup>th</sup> Street, WS 19-121  
 Long Island City, NY 11101

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<sup>3</sup> <https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

***We especially value applications from people of diverse sexual orientations, transgender and gender non-conforming people, people of color, women, and people of diverse abilities, national origins, and socioeconomic backgrounds.***

**#BlackLivesMatter**

