

FAMILY ADVOCATE AND PARTNERS IN HOPE PROGRAMS



Transitions-Mental Health Association

One out of every four families in the United States is directly affected by a mental illness. Such families face tremendous uncertainty and an unfair burden of stigma and discrimination that linger despite scientific proof that makes such beliefs groundless. The Family Advocate Program serves in San Luis Obispo County, while the Partners in Hope program serves Santa Barbara County.

The Family Advocate joins in partnership with family members to work as a team and to do the following:

- Provide families with an understanding of the mental health and judicial system and the services that are available.
- Help empower family members to better understand and cope with the problems and realities of severe and persistent mental illness.
- Offer confidential assistance and support, with dignity and respect.
- Supply educational materials and information about financial programs, support groups, workshops, conferences and family-to-family education.
- Develop programs that strengthen parent-to-parent support.
- Serve as a liaison with parents and other family members, care givers, individuals with mental illness, County Mental Health staff, local National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) groups, and other service providers.
- Attend and participate in local, regional and state meetings focused on family-professional partnerships.
- Assist in orientation of new families entering the mental health system and assist in development of orientation packets.

How Much Does It Cost?

This program is a free service to residents in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Family Advocate Program is funded locally by the Mental Health Services Act.

How Do I Get in the Program?

Anyone with an adult family member or loved one who may have a mental illness can contact the program. No referral is necessary.

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