

Project Director

Organization: [Kinnect](#)

Post Date: July 23, 2018

Program: Affirm Me Program, Chosen Affirming Family Model

Reports to: Associate Director

Job Location: Cleveland, OH

Salary: \$50,000/yr.

Benefits: Medical, Dental, Retirement

Position Summary

Kinnect is seeking a Project Director with experience in human services (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, health, or education) — with an emphasis on working towards legal and emotional permanency for LGBTQI+ youth in foster care. Kinnect, in partnership with Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services, A Place for Me, and Case Western Reserve University, was awarded a four-year federal grant to develop evidence informed/evidence based practices promoting positive outcomes for LGBTQI+ youth who experience the child welfare system. Youth who identify as LGBTQI+ are over represented in the foster care system. LGBTQI+ youth who experience foster care are more likely (than non-LGBTQI+ youth in care) to experience homelessness, rejection, physical and verbal abuse, and higher rates of suicide and depression.

The initiative involves three primary strategies: (1) safe identification of youth in foster care who identify as LGBTQI+; (2) creation of a PRIDE Network of foster caregivers and a PRIDE Youth Board to advocate and educate professionals, caregivers and administrators on the unique needs of LGBTQI+ youth; and (3) implementation of the Chosen Affirming Family model to provide family acceptance work with biological family members, including conducting Family Finding on behalf of youth, and moving youth to emotional and legal permanency with a lifelong family.

As part of this work, the Project Director will oversee the implementation and evaluation of the Chosen Affirming Family model. They will work closely with the co-leads at Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services to develop plans for sustainability, to ensure outcome measures are achieved, the continued strengthening of the team and the infrastructure of the initiative, and the creation of an Advisory Group.

Essential Skills:

- Knowledge of system reform, program and practice implementation
- Experience working with system leaders in child welfare, juvenile justice, schools, mental health or other human service fields
- Ability to navigate between the different systems (public and private) to advocate on behalf of youth and families

- Demonstrated ability to multitask and deliver quality work on time
- Exceptional writing, public speaking and presentation skills, including experience presenting complex subject matter
- Experience crossing boundaries of race, class, ethnic origin and personal philosophy; capacity to work effectively with a broad range of constituencies, including youth
- Strong analytical skills
- Demonstrated ability to build relationships in the field of child welfare

Essential Functions

- Provides supervision to Youth PRIDE Board
- Provides supervision to Project Coordinator and training scheduling and delivery
- Convenes and coordinates Advisory Board to provide advocacy, training, and resource development
- Coordinates efforts among partner agencies for the Quality Improvement Center grant and all other Affirm Me partners
- Completes reports and other required updates
- Attends, and as needed facilitates, leadership team meetings
- Ensures fidelity measures are collected and reported
- Develops communication tools to provide updates regarding outcomes and program deliverables
- Networks with national partners regarding LGBTQ permanency work
- Ensures Kinnect is affirming and supportive of permanency work for youth with diverse SOGIE
- Establish relationships with local partner agencies
- Provides project management oversight for all Chosen Affirming Family work

Department Specific / Non-essential Functions:

- Answer and respond to phone calls and emails in a timely manner
- Keep work calendar current and maintain records
- Participate in agency meetings, functions, and activities as required
- Complete assigned office tasks
- Complete ongoing education as approved by or assigned by supervisor
- Other duties as assigned

Minimum Requirements:

- Master’s degree in social work, counseling, psychology, or criminal justice
- 5+ years child welfare experience

Skills/Competencies:

- Sound knowledge base of the public child welfare system
- Ability to navigate both the public and private provider networks within the child welfare system

- Excellent verbal skills in order to communicate in a clear, concise and respectful manner to resource families
- Strong project management skills
- Excellent written skills
- Ability to complete monthly and quarterly reports
- Ability to motivate a team
- Comfortability with public speaking
- Ability to manage several projects at the same time
- Focus on meeting deadlines and ensuring contingency tasks are completed in a timely manner
- Ability to self-initiate and work independently

Additional skills/competencies necessary to carry out services to the service population's culture and socioeconomic characteristics:

- Obtain a cultural awareness that results in a clear understanding of the worldview that directs individual interactions with people of other backgrounds
- Ability to identify needs unique to various diverse populations including those of different gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic group, race, and physical or mental capacity and address those needs with community resource referrals
- Locate appropriate resources to communicate with Limited-English-proficient individuals or those with hearing impairment
- Assist other professionals and team members in understanding the unique needs/characteristics of diverse populations

Working Conditions

In office daily with some travel to meetings and periodic travel to out-of-state meetings
Reliable transportation required (mileage, per diem and incidental expenses covered)

DISCLAIMER:

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by employees assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of employees assigned to this position.

Interested candidates may send a resume and cover letter to Shannon Deinhart at shannon@kinnectohio.org