



Holistic Defense Advocate – Santa Maria

The Position:

Co-located within the Santa Maria Public Defender's Office, the Holistic Defense Advocate is part of a collaborative team working to provide high quality holistic representation to indigent adult clients accused of crimes in North Santa Barbara County. Through legal representation from public defender attorneys and targeted, comprehensive social work interventions from Holistic Defense Advocates, the program addresses life circumstances that lead to contact with the criminal justice system. The Holistic Defense team aims to stabilize lives, reduce recidivism, and create safer communities. An integral part of the defense team, the Holistic Defense Advocate conducts psychosocial assessments, provides mitigation reports, and makes referrals to treatment programs and social service providers. This is a partnership between Family Service Agency, a nonprofit organization, and the Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office. The position reports to the Family Service Agency Holistic Defense Program Manager.

Employment Standards:

1. MSW or MA in a related field required.
2. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred.
3. One year minimum preferred advocating for adults involved in the criminal justice system, who often have histories of trauma, substance abuse related concerns, and mental health diagnoses.
4. Case management and / or experience working within complex societal systems (i.e. criminal justice, social services, medical, education).
5. Knowledge of issues related to criminal justice involvement for poor and under-served populations.
6. Demonstrated multicultural competency.
7. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills; ability to work collaboratively within a team environment.
8. Excellent organizational and time management skills.
9. Strong written and oral advocacy skills.
10. Computer and Internet literacy; excellent verbal and written communication skills.
11. Valid automobile insurance and a valid California Driver License.
12. Reliable transportation is necessary to travel throughout Santa Barbara County.

Classification, Hours and Pay Rate:

- Position is Part-time (30 hours per week), non-exempt, with benefits. (Benefits include: medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and 403(b) retirement plan. Generous vacation, holiday and sick leave also offered.)
- Pay rate dependent on experience

Family Service Agency (FSA) has long been regarded as one of Santa Barbara County's most reliable and effective nonprofit human service organizations. Our mission is to strengthen and advocate for families and individuals of all ages and diversities, helping to create and preserve a healthy community.

We are committed to providing services where they are needed most: in the community. Eighty percent of our services are delivered on school campuses, at community centers and in clients' homes. Our programs, which serve more than 25,000 people annually, combine clinical expertise, bilingual and bicultural staff, and close collaboration with other agencies. At FSA, all services are provided free or on a sliding fee/donation scale and no one is denied assistance because of an inability to pay.

To apply for this position, please reply to this ad with your cover letter and resume. You may also send your materials to:

Attention: HR
Family Service Agency
123 West Gutierrez St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
hr@fsacares.org
Fax: 805.965.2178
EOE