## Family Partners – Who we are and what we do

We are first and foremost parents ourselves, most of us having children with special needs, having been involved with our children in mental health treatment, and/or have had experience navigating the child welfare system. We have experienced working with multiple agencies and service providers. We have learned through years of experience how to effectively work with these systems and agencies to reach the very best outcome possible. Along the way, we have encountered many challenges that made our journey frustrating and difficult.

We share the information and knowledge we have gathered and provide support, information, and resources to other families facing similar challenges. We will model for you effective ways to have your voice heard, and assist you in learning new skills to advocate for your children.

We will provide you with as much or as little support as you feel you need. We can become a trusted colleague in whom you can trust, confide and share your worries, fears and concerns.

Where can we help? While our main objective is to support you through gaining treatment for your child, we also can provide support with doctors, clinics, schools, hospitals, day treatment programs, just to name a few. We can also assist with other areas in which you are struggling or have questions.

Family Partners are not mental health workers, social workers or crisis intervention workers. Family Partners are not employed by the mental health clinic or by the Department of Health and Human Services. We do, however, have a good working relationship with both the clinics and DHHS. We believe these relationships will be beneficial in our work with you. We are actually employed through a grant made possible through a private, non-profit foundation.

Our goal is to successfully help you and your family as you begin the journey of effectively advocating for your child(ren), your family and yourself.