

What is a G.E.A.R. Family Support Partner?

A G.E.A.R. Family Support Partner helps parents and may help their youth successfully navigate what are often complex and frustrating systems of care.

A G.E.A.R. Family Support Partner has firsthand experience loving and caring for a child with emotional and behavioral health needs, and knows how important it is to have a person to talk to who can empathize with related issues at home, school, in facilities and the community.

A G.E.A.R. Family Support Partner helps empower families to effect life decisions based on individual strengths and needs. They help educate families on “family-driven” care, and may help a family identify its own trauma history and educate that family on trauma-informed services. They may also offer ideas and suggestions for a child’s behavior management.

What Family & Youth are Eligible?

- Families must live in Franklin, Androscoggin or Oxford County
- Child or youth age birth-18 years
- Child must have a current mental health diagnosis (DSM or DC 0-3)
- Family/child must be receiving a mental health service(s), and be involved with juvenile justice or child welfare



The G.E.A.R. Parent Network is a parent-run organization for parents of children with emotional and behavioral health concerns.

G.E.A.R. established the Family Support Partner Program in 2009 to provide short-term, in-home support services described in this flier.

We want families to know...

“You are NOT alone!”

We’re on the Web!

www.gearparentnetwork.co



Parents and professionals
interested in referring,
please call:

1-800-264-9224

Ask to have a referral
form faxed, mailed or
emailed to you.

Visit us on the web at:
www.gearparentnetwork.com

What Does a G.E.A.R. Family Support Partner Offer?

- **Listening and responding without shame, blame or judgment**
- **Positive role modeling**
- **Problem solving**
- **Meeting attendance based on a family's requests and needs**
- **Meeting preparation help, so a family can get what it wants out of meetings**
- **Guidance to help a family ask for what it needs and wants from service providers**
- **Encouragement to attend free support group meetings and educational workshops**
- **Awareness building and education**

