
Sandra Spencer

Education

B.A. 1982, East Carolina University, English and Communications

Present Position

Executive Director, National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (2004–Present)

Overseer of the National office and more than 100 statewide and local Federation Chapter across the country. Works collaboratively with other national children's mental health organizations as well as the Federal Center for Mental Health Services. Duties include, but are not limited to staff management, budgeting and fundraising, presentation at national conferences. Co-Principal Investigator for the Technical Assistance Partnership, which provides technical assistance and support to all of the federally funded systems of, care communities across the country.

Professional Experience

Executive Director, WE CARE-FFCMH (1997–2004)

Oversees the operations of a local chapter of the *Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health* in Greenville, NC under the guidance of a Board of Directors. Duties included but not limited to staff management, budgeting and fundraising, collaborating with community partners and various state agencies, newsletter writing and distribution, community workshop / trainings design and implementation. Provide leadership, ongoing support, and technical assistance to grassroots families and evolving family-run organizations formed under the umbrella of the national FFCMH organization. All duties carried out to reflect and promote family-centered system of care practices at all levels of mental health treatment of children and their families. Co-chaired the Project Management Committee that oversees two CMHS demonstration grants. My role continues on a volunteer basis.

Conference Coordinator, Technical Assistance Partnership (2002–2004)

Coordinates all aspects and duties of conference planning and execution biannually for the *TA Partnership* and annually for the *Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health*. Duties include but not limited to contract negotiations, agenda development (content), site visits, staff organization and management, evaluation, etc. Staff organization and management includes coordinating System of Care staff of all levels, guest lecturers, hotel staff, administrative staff, and volunteers in an atmosphere of unity and collaboration. Conducts all levels of planning, implementation, and evaluation as well as other duties in a manner consistent with the family-centered system of care practices.

Consultant/Peer Mentor/Guest Lecturer, Technical Assistance Partnership (1997–2002)

Serves as consultant and peer mentor to communities across the nation, who are endeavoring to build system of care services within their communities. Assistance includes but not limited to advocating for family centered system of care practices and improved mental health services through modeled leadership practices, ongoing support, and technical assistance. Offer presentations at national conferences to inform and persuade audiences on the issues of family involvement, cultural competency, and system of care reform. Co-teach with the *Social Sciences*



Training Consortium (SSTC) at East Carolina University to help promote the system of care philosophy to students entering the human service fields. Served as Guest lecturer in other university classes on the System of Care philosophy including but not limited to the supervision of Recreational Therapy Students in providing respite services and recreational therapy to children with serious emotional disturbances and their families.

Assistant Conference Coordinator, Technical Assistance Partnership (1997–2002)

Assisted and/or involved with all aspects and duties of conference planning and execution, including but not limited to everything listed above for Conference Coordinator.

Family Advocate Consultant, East Carolina University (1996–1997)

Titled the Parent-in-Residence, guest lectured in university classes on the System of Care philosophy. Conducted and coordinated training activities for families and service providers in order to promote family centered systems of care. Collected and organized a lending library made up of educational materials in order to disseminate crucial information to local families served by a growing system of care community. Wrote, edited, and distributed a monthly newsletter, *ENVISION*, for the PEN-PAL system of care grant community. Attended national conferences and workshops to maintain knowledge of current laws and trends evolving within the national and local mental health communities. Participated on various committees to ensure a family-sensitive project delivery.

