



**Internship Title:** Mental Health Advocacy Intern

**Supervisor:** Gretchen Gaudio, Client and Family Advocate

### **Description of Internship**

After 2 weeks of shadowing MHALC's Client and Family Advocate, the Advocacy Intern will support mental health consumers and their families in navigating the mental health system in Lancaster County. In addition, the intern would have the opportunity to engage in systems advocacy by participating in various coalitions and partnerships across Lancaster County. Spanish-speaking candidates are encouraged to apply. This position is ideal for a candidate looking to move into the social services sector after graduation.

### **Primary Responsibilities**

Advocate for clients and their families by attending meetings with other agencies, supporting the client in applying for medical assistance, helping client to access prescription programs, and connecting the client with resources about their mental illness. Attend meetings for Lancaster County Suicide Prevention Coalition, Lancaster County Coalition to End Homelessness, Let's Talk Lancaster, etc. and become involved as needed.

### **Required Knowledge and Skills**

General knowledge of mental illnesses. Ability to work with a variety of individuals from differing socioeconomic, cultural, and educational backgrounds. Sensitivity to the challenges faced by individuals with mental illness. Willingness to be positive and proactive in working with clients. Spanish language ability a plus.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Understand and be able to navigate the mental health system in Lancaster County. Learn how to appropriately work with clients experiencing mental health issues. Understand and work within the network of mental health partners in Lancaster County working on various issues related to mental health and social services. Spanish-speaking candidates will have the opportunity to expand and practice their language skills by working directly with Spanish-speaking clients and families.