

# CHILDREN'S Initiatives

## Youth Peer Support Specialist

**Youth Peer Support Specialist** is a service provided by young people ages 18-26 who have lived experience receiving mental health services, and who are willing and prepared to use their experience to support others. Youth Peer Support Specialists provide support to qualifying youth through shared activities and interventions. This Medicaid billable service can be provided individually or in a group setting. Youth that are eligible to receive this service must be enrolled in services within the DWIHN Provider Network.

### **Goals of Youth Peer Support include:**

The goals of Youth Peer Support include supporting youth and young adults by building a strong relationship based on mutual respect and strategic self-disclosure to increase hope, confidence, self-advocacy skills, and decision-making abilities.



**Addition Information is available at Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH) website:**

<http://www.acmh-mi.org/get-information/acmh-projects/youth-peer-support/>



### **YPS is delivered in two ways:**

- **Direct Support:** Providing direct support based on building a partnership, strategic self-disclosure and finding common experiences that build connections between the YPSS and the young person involved in services; and
- **Information Sharing:** Sharing information with youth and family members in a way that increases the likelihood that the young person and their family develop natural supports, take control of their own resiliency, and influence all services provided to them.
- **Skill Building:** Through a supportive and equal partnership, YPSS services empower the young person to build skills that allows them to successfully navigate services, systems and community activities.
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**For further information, questions or concerns, please contact**

**DWIHN's Access Center at:**

**(800)-241-4949 or**

**TTY: (866)870-2599**