



Committee for Public Counsel Services
Youth Advocacy Project

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Social Work Clinical Placement

Established in 1992 by the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Massachusetts public defender agency, YAP provides advocacy and legal representation for young people who are unable to pay for counsel in delinquency and youthful offender cases, as well as in related disciplinary and administrative proceedings. The project offers clinical assessment, service planning, and referrals to high-risk youth to prevent chronic court involvement and help them lead productive lives. YAP also offers education and training to families and children, youth-serving professionals, and members of the juvenile justice community.

YAP provides a clinical placement for a second-year graduate student intern who must be able to be at their placement 21-24 hours a week. It is strongly recommended that all interns have access to a car.

Responsibilities may include:

- Working with all members of the multidisciplinary team (i.e. delinquency attorneys, education attorneys, psychologist, community outreach workers, and social workers)
- Managing a caseload of youth involved in delinquency proceedings
- Attending court dates with youth and their families
- Conducting home visits or meeting clients in DYS facilities
- Attending community, school, and other meetings
- Meeting individually with clients and with their family members to provide supportive counseling as necessary
- Accompanying clients to meetings and appointments as appropriate. Provide transportation to children or families as appropriate
- Keeping case notes, writing memos and other reports
- Attaining records and conducting record reviews
- Meeting with other service providers and/or YAP staff to give impressions on client's strengths and needs
- Preparing comprehensive psychosocial histories
- Accessing and utilizing community resources
- Meeting with Social Work supervisor an hour weekly or more as required by the school
- Completing process recordings and other assignments as required by school

Social Work Macro Placement

YAP also has opportunities for Macro Social Work Students in the areas of Community Outreach and Institutional Development. Responsibilities could include writing and/or editing community resource guides, working on community education workshops, assisting with partnerships and collaborations with Roxbury-area agencies, grant writing, and special events.