Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (YAP) works with over 20,000 youth and families annually in 28 states and the District of Columbia and over 100 communities. YAP offers a full network of Behavioral Health programs in the home, school, and community aimed at helping youth lead healthy, safe and productive lives. By offering a continuum of interventions, families have the opportunity to maintain consistency and fluency in their natural environments.

**YAP’S APPROACH**

YAP employs a generalist approach to our work with youth and families, drawing from wraparound principles to develop individualized plans that are based on the specific needs and strengths of each family. Specific therapeutic interventions can include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Psychotherapy, Behavioral Therapy and others as appropriate.

YAP staff represent varying levels of educational backgrounds and/or experience in psychology, social work, or a human service-related field depending on the program type and state requirements.

Referrals can be initiated by a multitude of social service agencies, as well as school personnel, doctors, social workers or individual families. Upon completion of referral, the child and family will begin service in accordance with state regulations governing behavioral health services.

**SERVICES**

**Behavioral Health Services**

YAP provides intensive individualized service to children in their homes, school and community through our Behavioral Health Services. Though each youth’s plan is different, YAP works to build upon the existing strengths of the child and family; develop the young person and family’s skills in self-managing areas of need; and connect the family to professional and informal resources in their community that provide support beyond program involvement as needed and desired by the family.

**Outpatient Services**

Services in our outpatient setting provide the full array of behavioral health services mentioned above with the addition of licensed psychologists and psychiatrists. Psychological and Psychiatric evaluations are conducted and detailed assessments completed. Psychiatric services also include medication management when needed.

**Respite Services**

Through certain programs YAP offers temporary, planned relief from the responsibility of constant care-giving. This respite care allows parents and caregivers the time to engage in activities of their choice while having the peace of mind that their loved one’s needs are met in a safe and caring environment. Respite is offered for children age 5-18 with mental health, behavioral needs, and developmental disabilities.

**For More Information**

Jennifer Drake
Director of Behavioral Health Services
jdrake@yapinc.org/973-670-7495