

**Job Description**

**Job Title:** Mentor, Connections

**Department/Program:** Chicago Hearing Society

**Reports To:** Manager, Youth Program

**Summary:** Connections, which will be under the Youth Program, is a family centered support program that links adults who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind (“Mentors”) with families who have children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind, providing an array of support services. Through this connection, Mentors support families by providing their perspective as an individual who is Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind. Not only are Mentors able to share their perspective, but they also provide services to help families achieve their individualized program goal/s.

**Position Responsibilities:**

* Collaborate with families to determine and achieve appropriate program goal/s.
* Provide ongoing services to help families reach their individualized goals.
* Support families’ communication opportunities with their child, including all communication modalities (American Sign Language, Cued Speech and Listening and Spoken Language).
* Model conversational interactions using the families’ chosen mode of communication.
* Share past and present personal experiences as a Deaf or Hard of Hearing individual as it relates to individual families.
* Provide relevant information and resources as it pertains to families’ individualized needs, priorities and goal/s.
* If appropriate, familiarize families with the Deaf Community and relevant resources.
* Provide information on assistive technology (auditory and visual) for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind individuals as it relates to families.
* Assist families and children with learning advocacy and access skills.
* Assist the family in helping their child to achieve his/her full potential in both the hearing and deaf worlds.
* Outreach to Parents and Professionals:
* Represent CHS at parent events and networking groups to inform them of program activities.
* Provide information and referrals.
* Work with professionals through CHOICES for Parents to reach parents of children recently identified as having a hearing loss.
* Perform other related duties as assigned.

**Essential Skills and Experience:**

* Must be Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind.
* Be flexible with scheduling sessions.
* Knowledge of the technology available to assist with effective communication with families.
* Ability to interact and implement activities with a variety of children and adults.
* Ability to be unbiased, open-minded and supportive of family decisions with their communication and amplification choices.
* Ability to work effectively within a team approach.
* Partner with families as they know their children best.
* Be empathetic and understand the grieving process experienced by the families.
* Must possess a valid driver’s license and have access to an operational vehicle to transport self to various locations.
* Must follow HIPPA laws and other policies as it relates to being a Mentor.

**Reporting to this Position:** None

**Physical Demands and Work Environment:** The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

* Personal smartphone: Willing and able to use personal smartphone for business calls, emails and other telecommunication at own expense.
* Public Transit: Capable of navigating the use of public transportation system.
* Physical Demands: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand; walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; talk or hear; taste or smell. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
* Work Environment: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is exposed to weather conditions prevalent at the time. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.
* Maintain CPR/First Aid/NCI and participate in any other trainings deemed mandatory or relevant by the agency.

**General Sign-Off:** The employee is expected to adhere to all company policies and to act as a role model in the adherence to policies.

I have read and understand this explanation and job description.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_