



HAMILTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Roberta Bly, Commissioner

Hamilton County Families First Program

Who we serve and why

The Families First Program is a school-based service for Hamilton County youth and their families. Our goal is to help families break through the barriers that keep them from reaching their goals. The caseworker acts as a liaison between the family and school, meeting with youth at school weekly and the family at home monthly.

What we do

Once referred, the caseworker assigned works with the family, supporting them in the development and execution of 1-3 service goals. When necessary, the caseworker will connect families to appropriate programs and services at the family's request.

How referrals are made

- Families with youth can be referred through public schools (Lake Pleasant Central School, Wells Central School, Indian Lake Central School, and Long Lake Central School)
- OR-
- The local Department of Social Services

Common goals developed

- Reducing truancy
- Reducing problematic behaviors
- Improving communication, coping, problem solving and organizational skills
- Establishing incentive-based disciplinary plans
- Establishing clear expectations and boundaries

Common services connected

- Mental health/substance abuse services
 - Community Services or other
- Mediation services
 - Rural Law Center of NY
- Care management services
 - AHI
 - Northern Rivers

Common programs connected

- Medicaid transport
- HEAP
- SNAP
- Child support services
- Childcare assistance (subsidies)
- Trailblazers (summer youth programming)

To learn more, call Hamilton County DSS and speak to Senior Caseworker, Abby Eichler at (518)648-6131