

Child & Family

Caring for our Rhode Island Community since 1866

Coming to Child & Family in October 2017 was a significant change for me and for my overall career. I had graduated from the University of Rhode Island a year prior and was passionate about finding a job that would allow me to help people. In addition to this, I had started graduate school to receive my Master's in Social Work. I was initially hired as a Family Service Care Coordinator (FSCC) within the Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP) program and was unaware how this position would positively impact my learning experiences and professional growth.

During my time in the FCCP program, I learned a great deal about child welfare and vulnerable populations such as those that were homeless, struggled with mental health, and behavioral health. At first, I was nervous to go into people's homes and I had little experience with assessments and treatment plans. The director of the FCCP program and my supervisor were strong supports to me throughout my time in the program. Not only were they supportive of my career but my academic studies as well. My supervisor would check in with me regularly about my classes, upcoming internships, and if I needed additional knowledge to assist me in my MSW program. I was amazed at the support and positivity the agency had towards me continuing my education. I gained extensive knowledge and experience working with children and families that have positively impacted my career to this day.

I recently graduated in August 2021 with my MSW and began the process of looking for a Master's level position. I immediately started searching for a position within Child & Family because I truly loved the professional and friendly atmosphere of the agency. I was able to secure a position within the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) program working as an in-home clinician. My experience and time within FCCP helped me tremendously with this new position. I did not realize how much I would learn and gain from FCCP until starting in the FFT program. During my time in FCCP, I was able to obtain knowledge about clinical writing, doing assessments, creating treatment plans, and forming rapport with children and families. It is common for people to have anxiety and some fear about letting providers into their home, but I had learned how to make families comfortable. I had learned how to match my style to the family so that they would feel comfortable confiding in me with personal and private information. I had learned how to handle crisis situations when families were panicking and relied on me for support and strength. My supervisor was extremely supportive and present when I needed her guidance as well and I had never felt that I was not appreciated while working.

My time with the FCCP program prepared me in various ways for my current position as a family therapist. I find that I am prepared for situations due to having experiences with a variety of families, children, and populations. I credit my personal and professional growth to Child & Family and all those that have supported me.

-Lindsey Coen, Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Therapist, Child & Family