



CUYAHOGA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
Chief Public Defender – Cullen Sweeney

JOB POSTING

Posting date: January 2025

Job Title: Social Worker (LSW)

Department: YPDD

Reports to: Youth and Parent Defense Division Social Work Supervisor

Salary: \$62,036 (commensurate with licensure and experience)

Location:

Public Defender Office
Juvenile Justice Center
9300 Quincy Avenue

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

OVERVIEW:

Social workers at the Public Defender's Office are part of an interdisciplinary team of advocates who represent indigent children accused of crimes and indigent parents facing the temporary or permanent removal of their children by the State. The position will entail a docket of supporting and advocating for families involved with Children and Family Services (CFS), and with juveniles accused of crimes and providing supportive mitigation.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Maintaining regular communication with the client
- Working collaborative with clients, lawyers, parent advocates, and outside agencies
- Obtaining necessary records to aid in the successful representation of the client
- Assessing and evaluating client needs and case plan compliance and working with attorneys to develop case strategies for the client
- Conducting home visits and assisting clients in developing a plan to remedy any issues
- Observing and assisting with in-home or agency visitation
- Providing referrals to appropriate case plan services and identifying new services as necessary
- Attending and advocating on behalf of the client at CFS Staffings, Family Team Meetings and Semi-Annual Reviews
- Communicating with CFS workers and supervisors to advocate on behalf and support clients
- Obtaining critical social history records for juveniles
- Creating and maintaining mitigation timelines and records for juveniles
- Developing comprehensive release and rehabilitation plans for juveniles



- Perform interviews with family, friends and community members for mitigation
- Prepare mitigation reports for presentation in court for the attorneys
- Interview juveniles in the detention center
- Provide clinical emotional support for clients
- Assist attorneys in communication with clients experiencing unique challenges such as developmental delays, complex trauma, severe mental health issues
- Attends court hearings and providing testimony as needed.
- Facilitate and participate in trainings within and outside the Office
- Participating in community events and meetings related to the work of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender or any other assignments given by the Public Defender's Office.
- Providing assistance to attorneys handling delinquencies by obtaining client records, making appropriate referrals, and assisting with communication with the client and the family
- Other duties as assigned related to both delinquency and parental representation cases

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in social work with LSW Licensure
- A commitment to the mission of the Public Defender's Office in providing high quality legal representation for indigent clients
- Ability to work well independently and collaboratively with lawyers, non-lawyers, and court and agency staff
- Experience working in and with racially and socioeconomically marginalized communities
- Commitment to social justice and defending the rights of parents charged with abuse, neglect or dependency
- Demonstrated understanding of the issues of race and poverty as they relate to parents' experiences in the system
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Knowledge of Cuyahoga County community-based resources

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

All applications must be submitted by **February 7, 2025** and must include the following:

- A cover letter
- Resume
- Writing Sample
- Verification of Ohio licensure

These materials should be addressed and delivered by mail, or email to:

Chief Public Defender Cullen Sweeney
Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office
c/o Administrator Mark Budzar
310 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

If sending via email, please send your application packet to:
sm-pd-employment@cuyahogacounty.gov

Reasonable accommodation is available to all employees and applicants. If you have a disability that needs to be accommodated, please contact the Department of Human Resources/ADA Coordinator at (216) 443-7190.

Equal Opportunity Employer – Smoke-free and Drug-free workplace.
All job offers are made with the understanding that prospective employees pass a drug test and a criminal background investigation prior to being hired.
<http://publicdefender.cuyahogacounty.us/>