



Karen Fuller FPA-C, Credentialed Family Peer Advocate,

She began working with The Q Center at ACR Health in a volunteer capacity in 2008 and became an official staff member in September 2015 working with parents and caregivers of LGBTQ youth, with a specific focus on parents of trans and gender expansive youth. In her role as a Family Peer Advocate, she facilitates support groups for parents and families in all regions. She also works with families one-on-one to assess for needed support. She helps answer questions or address concerns they may have when their children first come out. She helps link families to appropriate medical and mental health providers, legal support for name and document changes, provides education and resources, and advocates for support in schools. As a parent of a trans youth herself, she can relate to what parents/caregivers may experience and is devoted to assisting them on their journey, so they can be their child's best advocate.



Jennifer Sibley is the Family Support Services Program Director at NRCIL. Her passion for working with families of children with disabilities stems from her time working in the classroom as teacher, before joining NRCIL in 2007. Over her 15 years with the agency, she has been a Credentialed Family Peer Advocate, Parent Trainer and Supervisor. She has trained hundreds of parents, educators and community members about the Special Education Process, a parent's role in working with the school and how to be your child's best advocate. She is motivated in her work by her two fantastic boys, Wyatt and Tyler, and her wonderful husband, Frank. She has a Bachelor's degree in Childhood Education from SUNY Potsdam and is a graduate of the Partner's in Policy Making Program and has received the Family Development Credential from Cornell University.



Bio Amy Friers

Amy Friers is a mother of three and happily married to her best friend, Jim. Their oldest child is 14 years old and identifies in the LGBTQ+ community, which is how Amy connected with her Family Peer Advocate, Karen. Their other two children are boy/girl twins who are 12 years old. Karen has helped Amy and her family navigate the gender identity journey, provided advice on mental health services, medical providers, suggested literature to read, connected them with other children and families, encouraged programming to attend, and aided in the legal process. Amy thinks Karen is some sort of super star!

Professionally, Amy is an educator. She has a BS in Music Education and a MS in Education (Counseling and Higher Education), both from the College of Saint Rose in Albany. She has been working with college students for over 20 years! She is currently earning a Certificate of Advanced Study in Intercollegiate Athletic Advising and Support from Syracuse University. Amy also owns her own Career Consulting practice - What's Next Careers, where she works with clients on the career development process and gaining skills needed in today's world of work.



Bethany Morgan is a Family Peer Advocate at BestSelf Behavioral Health in Buffalo, N.Y. Her devotion and advocacy for family driven care and peer support come from her vast lived experience. As an adopted child who spent time in a residential facility as well as being a single teen mom who had to navigate various systems of care for her four amazing children Joseph, Jacob, Gabriella, Anya and more recently her four-year-old grandson Jayden she has been able to shape her understanding of the inner workings of a system of care from many angles.

Bethany has helped design and implement a family driven care training at the mental health organization where she works and also does consulting at local colleges and in the community on the importance of family and youth voice. Bethany sits on many children and family committees and advisory boards across NYS and advocates for systemic change in Albany a few times a year. Bethany is well known in her community for her ability to engage and positively impact individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds. She recently finished classes at Hilbert College as a NYS Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor. Bethany is also currently working towards her Bachelor's in Community and Human Services at SUNY Empire College and is the proud recipient of the 2021 NYS 'What's Great in our State' *Family/Caregiver Award*.