

The primary goals of SPOA include maintaining children in the community with their families, reducing out-of-home placements, facilitating earlier return of children already in placement, and increasing access to community-based services.

These goals are accomplished using an individualized, strengths-based approach and assuring parent involvement at ALL levels.



### Who participates in the SPOA Process?

- Greene County Mental Health
- Greene County Case Management
- Mental Health Association of C-G Counties
- Greene County Youth Bureau
- Greene County DSS
- Parson's Child & Family Center
- REACH Center/Child Advocacy Center
- Greene County School Districts
- Family Peer Partner



### For More Information Contact:

Heather Buffa, RN-MSN  
SPOA Coordinator  
Greene County Mental Health Center  
905 Greene County Office Building  
Cairo, NY 12413

Phone: 518-622-9163 ext 7150  
Fax: 518-622-8592  
Email: [hbuffa@discovergreene.com](mailto:hbuffa@discovergreene.com)

For SPOA referral forms please visit the  
Greene County website:

<http://greengovernment.com/departments/mental-health/>

# SPOA Greene County's Single Point Of Access For Children & Youth



Services Provided by  
Greene County  
Mental Health  
Center

A New York State  
Office of Mental Health Initiative

# What is Single Point of Access (SPOA)?

SPOA organizes the county's supportive services for children under one umbrella, creating a central and simple referral, screening, and review process. Services are strengths-based and family driven. Family members are equal partners on the team and are invited to participate in **ALL** decisions made about services offered to the family.



## Who is eligible for SPOA Services?

### Any family with a child:

- *Under the age of 18*
- *Whose behavior impacts functioning at home, school, or community*
- *At risk of being hospitalized or placed outside the home*
- *Involved in multiple systems*
- *Whose needs have not been met successfully in day to day environment*

# SPOA Programs

The following is a list of services your child may be referred to. Please note; **ALL** of these services are completely voluntary.

**Health Home Care Management:** This is a Medicaid service available to children who meet certain eligibility criteria. A Care Manager can:

- *Assess the strengths and needs of a child and family to develop a supportive care plan.*
- *Link families to community resources and specialty providers as needed.*
- *Help families and school systems coordinate educational and behavioral goals*
- *Help communicate and coordinate between providers to facilitate progress towards goals.*

**Home & Community Based Waiver:** HCBW is the highest level of care management available and provides intensive wraparound services to children diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances between the ages 5-21. The program provides children and families with strength-based individualized care coordination, respite, skill building, intensive in-home, crisis response, and family support services.

**Family Support:** Our Family Support worker offers parent-to-parent support from someone with lived experience with a special needs child. They can provide a number of in home services including: Parent to parent support, assist in navigating systems, skill building, advocacy, and linkage to resources.

**Respite:** Respite services provide a needed break for the family, easing family stress and providing the child with other positive adult interaction. This day or overnight care is provided either in the home or out of the home by trained workers.

**DSS Prevention Services:** Supportive and rehabilitative services provided to children and families aimed at addressing dynamics which put a child and family at risk for foster care involvement.

**Pre-PINS services:** This is a diversion program to support children with problematic behaviors who may be at risk for entering the juvenile justice system. A worker will assist in setting behavioral limits, addressing high risk behaviors, and linking to appropriate services.

**REACH/Child Advocacy Center** For children and adults who have been the victim of abuse, this program provides counseling and therapy, advocacy, accompaniments, information and referrals. Services are available for recent or past victimizations.

**Residential Treatment:** For youth recommended for residential options including RTF (Residential Treatment Facility) and CR (Community Residence), the SPOA committee reviews and approves referrals prior to further review by the State.

**Community Mental Health:** Individual and family counseling and medication management services are available through the Greene County Mental Health Center. These services are available without SPOA involvement, but the SPOA committee may recommend counseling supports if not already established.