

MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

Phoenix Advocacy

www.phoenixadvocacy.com



Phoenix Advocacy began as a passion project by Maya Mahler and Natalie Kamra, whose background inspired a shared vision to drive generational change in Pittsburgh. From their own experience as children of Lebanese immigrants, the mental health specialists understand what it's like to start new lives in a new country and are committed to helping others in similar circumstances or with comparable requirements. As such, Phoenix Advocacy is a broad tent of resources, set up to serve clients with a range of complex physical, mental and behavioural health concerns who are encumbered by a myriad of socio-emotional and economic challenges. In order to better serve these individuals, the experts provide services for clients including resource management, case management and advocacy. Their ability to take on mental health cases and provide intensive, one-to-one advocacy has proven successful in meeting short and long term goals set by clients where other agencies could not.

While other human service agencies and nonprofits are effective in providing a plethora of services, a significant proportion are limited to helping a specific demographic or set of circumstances, such as single mothers, the working poor, or addiction recovery services. As a result, locals to the area who suffer from mental health challenges and don't fall within fairly rigid boundaries find it problematic to access the services they need. This is where Phoenix Advocacy can help. Their model is a flagship service in advocacy, enabling them to assist a mix of people without limitations on the services they provide, the amount of hours that can be allocated or the types



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of clients that can be helped. As a result, the agency has been able to allocate resources including 24/7 nursing care, healthcare equipment and social services at no cost to their partners' clients.

The judging panel was particularly impressed with the efforts made at Phoenix Advocacy to make their services available to all. Through their dedication to unfettered distribution, many Pittsburghers have been able to access the mental health services they so desperately need but had previously been denied as a consequence of classification constraints. By connecting people who would otherwise fall through the cracks, Phoenix Advocacy helps individuals find security, become independent and have a clear path to community, stability and purpose.