



JOB DESCRIPTION

Administrator/Director of the International Parent Advocacy Network (IPAN) (February 2020)

THE PARENT ADVOCACY MOVEMENT

Throughout the world, child protective agencies often separate children from their families based on abuse or neglect allegations instead of providing needed support. Thus minor problems can become major impediments to family unity. These interventions too often harm disadvantaged communities -- indigenous, immigrant, low-income, and communities of color -- as the stressors of poverty are misdiagnosed as signs of parental misconduct. Excessive monitoring and insufficient due process in Family Court can also tear at the fabric of family life.

In the early 1990s, first in New York City and then across the United States and in other high-income countries, parents impacted by child protective systems and their allies began to mobilize. Parents organized to increase their influence in child protective decisions at the case, program and policy levels. Some advocate for the reallocation of government resources from the child protective system toward the root causes of poverty.

IPAN'S MISSION

The International Parent Advocacy Network (IPAN) aims to increase the power of parents impacted by child protective systems. We support parents and organizations that challenge excessive surveillance and family separation through state care and adoption. IPAN works to empower parents around the world, so that their voices are heard and their rights protected.

IPAN'S HISTORY

In 2018, the International Parent Advocacy Network (IPAN) was established at a meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. Through IPAN, parents and their allies from the United States, England, Scotland, Australia, Finland, Norway and other countries are working together to change child protective systems. IPAN is also committed to parent advocacy in low- and middle-income countries, where the need for family preservation and community power is just as acute.

JOB DESCRIPTION

IPAN is seeking a person to work one day a week for the next six months as the administrator of IPAN. Our intention is to raise funds to provide full-time positions as a co-directorship of IPAN consisting of a parent with lived child welfare experience and an ally.

The administrator will have two main areas of responsibility which are described below.

1. Coordinating and developing the organizational and programmatic activities of IPAN
2. Assisting with the planning and organizing of IPAN's launch international conference in June 2021

Coordinating and developing the organizational and programmatic activities of IPAN

Responsibilities include:

- Planning, organizing and follow-up for the bi-monthly meetings of the IPAN Board of Directors
- Assisting with the development of the IPAN website
- Strengthening and extending the IPAN network
- Assisting with the development of the IPAN newsletter

Assisting with the planning and organizing of IPAN's launch international conference in June 2021

IPAN is planning its launch conference in June 2021 in collaboration with the New School University in New York City. The conference will include parents, allies and organizations involved in parent activism and advocacy in child welfare throughout the world.

Responsibilities include:

- Staffing IPAN's board of directors' conference planning committee lead by Andy Bilson
- Assisting with the planning and organizing for the conference
- Shaping the scope of the conference
- Coordinating conference logistics
- Identifying and working with speakers, presenters and participants
- Liaise with the New School University

REPORTING

The administrator of IPAN will report to David Tobis for IPAN-wide activities and to Andy Bilson for conference planning activities.

TIME FRAME

The job will start as soon as possible. It will be a one-day a week position in 2020. In 2021 the administrator will become a co-director of IPAN with a parent and an ally sharing the directorship.

LOCATION

The administrator should be based in New York City. IPAN is incorporated in New York State and the conference will take place in New York City.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- 3-5 years working with parent advocates with child welfare experience
- Significant experience facilitating collaboration among individuals and organizations
- Significant experience administering an organization or project
- Significant experience developing on-line and print materials
- Experience working in an international arena

Individuals with lived child welfare experience are encouraged to apply

COMPENSATION

The individual will be self-employ and work as a part-time consultant.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Individuals who are interested in applying should send a letter of interest and CV to admin@parentadvocacy.net