



GEAR MISSION STATEMENT

G.E.A.R. empowers parents of children with emotional and behavioral health needs to effect life decisions based on their family's individual strengths and needs by providing safe and supportive avenues for: emotional support, problem solving, sharing common experiences, seeking knowledge about community resources and advocacy, identifying the strengths and needs of their child/youth and families and accessing information/education related to children's needs. G.E.A.R. believes in a system of care that helps children, youth and families function better at home, in school, in the community and throughout life.

As a Statewide Family-Run Organization whose primary mission is children's behavioral health needs, the following is a list of our values and goals

What we value is:

- Community-based, family driven, youth guided, culturally competent systems of care.
- Full family and child/youth participation in planning and delivery of services.
- A family-friendly system of accountability based on positive outcomes.
- We value our partners in advocacy.
- We value the expertise a family offers.
- The opportunity to collaborate.
- Professional research and public education.
- The opportunity to empower and make a difference for families and children/youth by improving their quality of life.

What our Goals are:

- To Increase awareness of children's behavioral health and needs.
- To act as a catalyst for change in mental health systems, in Maine.
- To act as a voice to advocate for families of children and youth with behavioral health needs.
- To empower families to increase family resiliency factors.
- To advocate in the public forum for comprehensive, coordinated, community-based, family driven and youth guided supports.
- To provide education to systems government, service providers, families and other concerned community members about Youth and Families with behavioral health differences.
- To provide resiliency trainings in all communities, so that everyone can implement protective factors in their homes and communities.