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Youth Services looking for more Peer Youth Workers

SALT LAKE CITY – Heather O’Brien is no stranger to the “system”.

For a year and a half she was in state custody, in and out of foster homes and group homes. Now, O’Brien has an adopted family and works as a peer youth worker in the same Girls Group Home where she once stayed.

“I can relate because I have been here and in the same position,” said O’Brien. “These girls are a reflection of my past and helping them makes my life feel more fulfilled.”

Salt Lake County Division of Youth Services is looking for more young adults to work with their peers, as O’Brien does. The Division is looking to expand the program that started just three years ago.

Youth workers help out in group therapy, at the group homes and other projects as needed. Starting next year, Youth Services also plans to use some of the students who have graduated from Kearns Junior High to come back and work with the After-School Program.

Any youth age 15 to 18 who are interested in working with other youth in state custody or the juvenile court system can apply. Youth Services is accepting applications until May 25 and training for the job will be June 11 through June 15, from 9 am to 5 p.m.

Applications can be found online at www.slcoyouth.org under the Job Listings or picked up at Youth Services, 177 W Price Ave (3610 South). Anyone with questions regarding the position can call Tammy Champo at 269-7506.