

# Office of Consumer Partnerships

## Overview

In 2003, the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health report called for consumers to be involved in all aspects of planning, delivering, and evaluating mental health services.

The mission of the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) Office of Consumer Partnerships (OCP) is to ensure that service recipients' individual involvement and communication is embedded in behavioral health systems.

The OCP takes an active role in representation of these individuals in internal agency activities, promoting recovery and bringing this voice to the work of the Division. The OCP manager participates in a leadership role and is on the management team. The OCP also has responsibility for cultivating a recovery culture within state agencies.

OCP takes a lead role in fostering leadership and advocacy training and support statewide. The OCP supports peer run organizations and actively participates in the development and growth of individual leaders, advocacy organizations, and peer run organizations. The OCP is involved in all aspects of behavioral health, including peer support advocacy. The OCP provides small grants to support local organizations to train members to engage in state and system participation and leadership.

The OCP educates behavioral health individuals in the topics of Recovery and Integration. Many constituents are fearful that with integration occurring, recovery orientation to services will be lost. The OCP helps individuals voice concerns and directs them toward resources for education and advocacy.

## Eligibility requirements

The core OCP includes individuals with lived experience working within HCA. All members except the senior manager have other full time job roles. These members include representatives from adults, family, youth, and substance use disorder members. The OCP also includes advisory members who are

individuals receiving or who have received behavioral health services or their parents or guardians. A critical eligibility requirement is an interest in participating in policy making and involvement with improving the behavioral health system.

The Office of Consumer Partnerships has a listserv with more than 3,800 members and offers regular state updates and webinars. The OCP also serves approximately 1,000 members through support of consumer groups and training.

## Authority

New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental health, the National Association of Mental Health Program Directors, World Health Organization Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020

## Budget

\$110,000 per year

## Primary partners

The OCP partners with consumers, consumer-run organizations (statewide and national), advocacy organizations, behavioral health organizations, managed care organizations, and Accountable Communities of Health.

## For more information

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