

South Beach Psychiatric Center

Regional Advisory Committee Input

August 27, 2012

1. What is the advocacy we should be working on in the next 3-5 years?
 2. The important issues we should be working on and advocating for?
 3. Where do we go from here?
- Medication
 - STOP FORCED TREATMENT and coercive treatment (i.e. Compliance with medication in order to obtain/maintain housing or employment).
 - ABOLISH Kendra's Law
 - Informed Consent. Doctors should be REQUIRED to inform you of the RISKS and BENEFITS of any medication they wish to prescribe.
 - Alternative Healing Modalities should not only be encouraged, but reimbursable by health insurance.
 - More research on long term effects of medications

 - Managed Care
 - Premiums reduced for people with disabilities
 - Alternative Healing Modalities should not only be encouraged, but reimbursable by health insurance.
 - With increased access to electronic medical records more physicians will be aware of a patient's psychiatric diagnosis. There should be provider education for treating persons with psychiatric conditions and competency training for support staff in medical centers
 - Proper physical health treatment should be given to those in psychiatric hospitals

 - Forensics
 - Education on how to seal your record

 - Housing
 - More opportunities/remove barriers for housing for families and non-conventional families in both supported housing and homeownership programs
 - Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Federal Fair Housing Act in supported housing
 - Remove barriers for opposite sex couples wishing to live together in supported housing

 - Transportation
 - Half Fare program implemented for disabled for ALL transportation such as Amtrak and Airlines. (local and out-of state)

- Parity with Veterans in regards to transportation. Universal ID for the disabled recognized throughout the country
- Driver's Education offered in treatment programs
- Discounted Auto Insurance

- Economic Self Sufficiency
 - Mentoring program for those seeking work
 - Competitive salaries for Peer workers
 - More career pathways for advocates
 - Flexible employment, allowing people to set their own pace
 - Remove penalties for married couples in regards to Social Security
 - Develop monthly allowance to pay for independent services (i.e. wrap around funds without having case management)

- Friends/Relationships
 - Changing policies surrounding Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities
 - Safe sex education on inpatient units
 - Relationship counseling
 - Remove barriers for opposite sex couples wishing to live together in supported housing

- Overarching
 - Reduce STIGMA
 - More education for LGBT community
 - Partner with other disability/ socio-economically disadvantaged groups and support each other's advocacy efforts
 - Develop a media presence. More advocacy support from celebrities diagnosed with mental illness