

January 22nd and 23rd Regional Advisory Committee Meeting at the Comfort Inn (East Greenbush/Castleton)

There were four focus groups convened at this on site meeting. These are the responses to the question of: What do we at the Office of Consumer Affairs need to advocate for?

Make the government aware that everyone has problems, not just the mentally ill

More true recovery centers that focus on consumers 'spark' of life engaging them into the community

Disseminate more info to educate to give individuals more choice

Offer more/better housing

OMH offer more services similar to ACCES- VR to help people get back to work

Offer more basic educational/computer skills to get into entry work level field

Nothing about us without us (survey)

Educate more on rights (especially in PROS programs)

More medical insurance for ages 18-21

Consumer co-op housing

More education on movement

More children/family support groups to educate on mental wellness and that recovery is real

More in recovery tell their story

Educate the public that not all mentally ill are violent

Educate the public on stigma

Focus on more person centeredness on all agency materials reviewed by OMH licensing people

More funding for OASAS credentialing retraining

Education/cognitive supports for adolescents and children in the community

More job training/on the job

Family/children advocacy increased

More engaging activities for patients on psych units not just simple puzzles, coloring etc....

Easier transition from one provider to another

Financial literacy training

More providers in rural areas

More trauma informed providers

Patient choice vs. provider directive

Holistic vs. pharmaceutical

Animal therapy vs. medical model to assist w/different conditions

Ensure that providers, county Directors of Community Services/community provide complete resource guides on mental health services and beyond

Elder resources/supports need to increase, more collaboration w/Office For the Aging

More providers meetings with people where they are at

Provider scorecards/grading system (accountability)

Consumer surveys of providers w/outside independent agency oversight

More support for people facing legal issues and understanding current legal mechanisms such as CPL law, family court, health care proxy. Ensure all lawyers have basic training on MH issues.

Trauma informed care and recognize some trauma release/reaction are not psychotic symptoms

Increase access to trained therapist in PTSD work

End racist class practices/end ECT on children

Family unification programs

Youth transition programs

Vocational programs

Consumer run own business/housing

Purchase land and build home

Funding for health care navigator

Community involvement

Gender/spectrum

Certified peers-license

End medical control over medication

Maintain funding for successful drop-in model peer services

Consumers meeting certain requirements due to disability limits

Enhance funding

Stop medicating young children

Peers having greater input in the accountable care

More post and secondary education

Proper assessment of the whole person including nutrition

Start up grants for peer run programs

Take a public position on Kendra's Law

Eliminating the term 'consumer'.

Handicap access to public transportation

Mass media campaign on our success story

More peer specialist state items

First episode, psychosis crisis diversion

Career path for peer specialists

OMH p.s.a. to fight against negative impact of consumers

S.A.F.E.A.C.T-false reporting of domestic violence

One stop services

Funding for providers, non-providers, (volunteers)-stipends for volunteers

Police official accountability with mental health issues and S.A.F.E.A.C.T

Monthly training for police officers

Cultural diversity

Cultural sensitivity

College credits for CUNY Health Navigator

Peer run gun shop

Retraining for administration

More funding for peer run services

Supporting peers in music/art

Training on writing grant proposals

Provider scorecards

Free coffee at all RAC meetings

Training consumers how to collaborate with the issues

More info on Center for Excellence qualification & operation

Funding for cultural events

Do something that actually works

Make the whole world consumer educated

A peer in every Emergency Room that can redirect someone who is experiencing emotional crisis for the first time to a safe place outside the system

Make OMH a peer run agency

Make every mental health consumer literate

Educate to dispel stigma

Peers to train 3 months and work 9 months

Peer advisors and members at average site

End the Emotionally Disturbed Person databases

Offer adult literacy and language programs at every site (GED/literacy/college prep/life learning skills/basic self esteem building/parenting/math/reading comprehension

A chance to not check out immediately, extended check out

Every county in NYS to have adequate funding for peer services

Teaching consumers to advocate for themselves