

The *Ohio Community Support Recovery Planning Council* (Planning Council or Council) is an **advisory** group to Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) on mental health and addiction services in Ohio.

The Federal government requires the Council to annually review services as a condition of receiving the \$15 million Mental Health Block Grant and the \$64 million Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Council is required by federal statute to annually monitor, review and evaluate the allocation of funding and resources, and the adequacy of mental health and addiction service planning and delivery; the Council makes recommendations based on this review. The Council hears presentations from OhioMHAS staff and other agencies, and stakeholders in the mental health and addiction system, and meets with the OhioMHAS Director twice a year. The Council may review planning and grant documents or request specific presentations from OhioMHAS staff for the purpose of making recommendations to OhioMHAS.

The Planning Council is required by SAMHSA to assure that 50% or more of Council seats are filled by persons in recovery and family members. Recognizing that many members may have co-occurring conditions, half of those members should represent addiction and half should represent mental health. OhioMHAS will submit a combined Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Block Grant Plan Application.

The Council is required to include representatives of specified state agencies and other stakeholders including providers and ADAMH/CMH/ADAS Boards that plan, evaluate and fund local services. The Council provides an opportunity for persons in recovery and their family members to advocate with state staff and providers. It provides an opportunity for state leaders and providers to hear the perspective of service recipients.

The Council meets 6 times per year including three Saturday meetings and three Friday meetings from 10:00 to 3:00 in Columbus. The Council serves as an advocate for adults and children with serious mental illness and emotional disturbances and addiction. OhioMHAS recruits person in recovery and family members who represent the demographic and geographic diversity of Ohio regarding race, ethnicity, age, gender, and veteran status.

Consumers and family members cannot be state employees, provider Board members or employed by treatment provider agencies in order to meet federal grant requirements. Consumer and family members can be staff at the advocacy organizations supported by OhioMHAS and they are eligible for reimbursement for mileage and per diem stipends. Member responsibilities are to attend meetings, listen respectfully, and offer input.

OhioMHAS: <http://mha.ohio.gov>

SAMHSA: <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/blockgrant>