



Ohio Community Recovery Support Planning Council

Date

Dear New Member,

Congratulations, and welcome to the Ohio Community Recovery Support Planning Council!

The Planning Council is made up of a diverse group of recovery-oriented individuals, equally representing our peers and family members from both the mental health and substance use disorder populations across the state of Ohio and behavioral health provider and state agency staff. Your lived experience gives you a unique perspective that is highly-valued as a representative of your particular designation on the Planning Council.

All of these diverse perspectives unify for one major goal: to monitor, evaluate, and review programs and services in an effort to advise Ohio's leadership in the use of SAMHSA [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration] block grant funds. In order to receive these block grant funds, federally-mandated councils are made up of stakeholders across each state behavioral health system.

Several local and state-wide providers are also represented, but not limited to:

- Varying mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorder agencies
- Publicly- and privately-funded programs and coalitions
- Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs), and residential programs
- State agencies for education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing and social services, child welfare, Medicaid/Medicare, and transportation.

During the six Planning Council meetings during the year you will, have the opportunity to network and learn about peers and family members representing communities and organizations different from your own. Our diversity is a strongpoint of the Council. We strive to represent communities not limited to:

- + Rural, urban, and suburban
- + Varying racial, ethnic, and linguistic groups
- + Behavioral health providers and Boards
- + Varying ages across the lifespan
- + Varying genders and sexual orientations
- + State agencies

In the packet you will receive at each meeting, we have council rules and guidelines. We have also included one here for you. These are so that everyone's voices are heard while fitting into the time constraints of each meeting.

Again, we welcome you and thank you for your time and talents to help advise Ohio's behavioral health system!

Sincerely,

The Planning Council's Membership Committee



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Helpful Information for Planning Council Members

We recognize that there is somewhat of a “learning curve” for new Planning Council members. In an effort to answer many of the questions you may have, we have included a listing of helpful websites and/or electronic documents that may interest you. Although these are not required reading, you may find them beneficial to you:

✓ [OhioMHAS Planning Council Page](#)

Here you will find a meeting schedule, a new member orientation powerpoint, minutes of past meetings, our by-laws, a membership list, and information about current leadership on the Council.

✓ [OhioMHAS \[Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services\] Main Page](#)

Here is a wealth of information about Ohio’s behavioral health system.

✓ [SAMHSA Website – Block Grant Information](#)

✓ <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/block-grants>

SAMHSA administers the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants to state governments authorized by Congress. The federal statute authorizing the Mental Health Block Grant requires that states maintain a Planning Council as a condition for funding. In recent years, SAMHSA promoted expansion of the Council to include the Substance Abuse Block Grant, especially in states which adopted a combined plan for the two grants. The Council’s responsibilities defined in federal law are to:

1. Review the combined Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Community Mental Health Block Grant Plan and submit to the State any recommendations for modification;
2. Serve as an advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with a serious emotional disturbance, and other individuals with mental illnesses or emotional problems;
3. Monitor, review, and evaluate, not less than once each year, the allocation (i.e., resources and/or funding) and adequacy of mental health services within the State;