



office of family relations

A Family Member is: A person, who provides primary support for, is a primary caregiver of, or whose daily life is impacted by being a family member of a dYfgcb'k \ c]g`]]]b['k]h`gYf]ci g'a YbHJ : \ YUH`UbX#f'gi VgHLbVW'UVi gYV#bWf'bg"Family members may be the biological parents, foster parents, siblings, spouses, domestic partners, children, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, or anyone whom the consumer#W]Ybhdefines as "their family members."

The Office of Family Relations (OFR) was developed to provide technical assistance and family perspectives to Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, including: County-run and Community Based Organizations and treatment facilities.

In collaboration with the System of Care Directors, the office's charge is to build systems of support for family members that values the diverse cultural, ethnic, linguistic and socio-economic communities in Alameda County, including the myriad of changing needs family members may experience across the life-span of their loved-ones, from early childhood through adulthood.

The OFR's goals will be met through voicing family perspectives to ACBHCS's Administration regarding policy and programmatic issues, recruitment and retention of family members in workgroups and planning councils, providing technical assistance to new and emerging family groups, working closely with existing family groups, and facilitating linkages throughout the County to extend a network of information, education and support for family members.

Beyond the Behavioral Health Care System, the OFR will outreach to schools, child-welfare, faith-based organizations, primary health care providers, juvenile and criminal justice, and the general public about mental health and/or substance abuse issues and their impact on individuals and families.

Specific activities include:

1. Advising and assisting with the development of the Family Education Resource Centers (FERC).
2. The development of an Advisory Council for the OFR, that includes family members that represent the life-span, to make recommendations for elements of the offices' strategic planning efforts.
3. The procurement and/or development of new curricula that address the needs of diverse populations and age groups, including system navigation tools, such as Individualized Education Plans (IEP), AB1424, Conservatorship, etc.
4. The promotion of existing curriculum for family members including: Educate, Equip and Support (EES), Family to Family, The Parent Project, Wellness Recovery and Action Plans (WRAP), SibKids, and other training modules.

5. Producing workshops, presentations, white papers, articles, and other publicly accessible platforms to address the concerns of family members of persons who are living with a mental health and/or substance abuse problem.
6. Providing in-service trainings and to programs and facilities that are in need of increasing family support services and fostering family involvement and empowerment as part of the recovery process

