



## **Consumer and Family Member Employment Work Group Description and Purpose November 2009**

**Work Group Purpose:** This new work group is designed to support the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Consumer and Family Member Employment Toolkit, a component of the MHSA Workforce, Education and Training Plan, and to champion the integration of consumers and family members into the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBHCS) mental health workforce. ACBHCS refers to **both county sites and contracted community-based organizations (CBOs)** that provide mental health services.

The Work Group will:

- Provide an opportunity to bring all interested parties together to discuss, problem solve, support and evaluate consumer and family member employment activities.
- Serve as an employment “think tank” and learning community.
- Develop strategies that will increase the number and types of employment opportunities for consumers and family members throughout ACBHCS.
- Identify opportunities and strategies that will increase the number of peer provider positions (consumer/peer providers, parent partners, family partners) with the goal of increasing peer support for ACBHCS clients and family members.
- Develop strategies and supports to increase the retention rates of BHCS consumer and family member employees.
- Provide support and technical assistance to ACBHCS supervisors, service teams and provider staff.
- Align employment activities with other ACBHCS consumer and family member training and employment efforts.
- Develop ongoing evaluation methods and analyze results to determine the impact of these efforts.

**Scope:** The Work Group is designed as a learning community, in which members will learn from one another and discuss issues; brainstorm solutions when barriers are identified; review evidence-based, best and emerging practices in consumer and family employment; identify system training, technical assistance and support needs; assist in implementation activities as appropriate; recommend changes in practices and/or policies; evaluate outcomes; and celebrate successes.

**Time Commitment:** Interested applicants are asked to choose a one-year or two-year term on the work group, with the option to reapply for additional term(s). A four hour introductory meeting will be held for new work group members in January 2010. The work group will meet monthly for two hours, beginning in February 2010. On occasion, meeting times may be extended in order to allow sufficient time for specific presentations

or discussions. Members will be informed of any scheduling changes well in advance of meetings.

**Membership:** The Work Group will be composed of three primary stakeholder groups: consumers, family members and service providers from county and contract CBO mental health settings. We are seeking members that represent a variety of perspectives and experiences with consumer and family member employment and have experience with collaborative processes, such as participating in an MHSA planning process or on committees. Representatives from ACBHCS Workforce Development, Vocational Services and the Wellness, Recovery & Resiliency Hub will also participate as system support staff. Interested individuals must complete and submit an application.

**Alternates:** Alternates will be selected during the application review process. Alternates will be asked to stand-in for seated work group members, when work group members are unable to attend a scheduled meeting. Alternates will be asked to participate in the orientation meeting, which will be held in January 2010.

**Stipends for Consumer and Family Member Work Group Members:** Consumer and family member work group members will receive meeting stipends, following the ACBHCS stipend policy. Alternates will receive a meeting stipend for the orientation meeting and when they stand-in for work group members who are unable to attend a scheduled meeting.

**Application and Selection Process:**

- All interested applicants must complete and submit an application for review.
- Applicants can nominate themselves or another person.
- Applications are **due on or before December 9, 2009**.
- Work group members will be selected by a review committee composed of Toni Tullys, Workforce Development; Sharon Kuehn, Consumer Relations; Rosa Warder, Family Relations; Margaret Walkover, Wellness, Recovery & Resiliency Hub and Michael Lisman, Adult Community Support Services.

**Questions?**

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