




THE CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL – NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Office of Health Strategy – State of Connecticut



**THE MISSION OF THE CONSUMER
ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) IS TO ADVOCATE
FOR CONSUMERS AND PROVIDE FOR
STRONG PUBLIC AND CONSUMER INPUT IN
HEALTHCARE REFORM POLICIES IN
CONNECTICUT.**

Who are the Members?

The Consumer Advisory Council is a diverse group of Consumers and Advocates who work together to raise the Consumer Voice in Connecticut healthcare reform policies. Many of our Board Members have lived patient and family experience with Cancer, HIV, Behavioral Health and Recovery, Rare Diseases, Disabilities, Trauma, Chronic Health Conditions and the Pain of Health Disparities.

What is expected of Members?

- Attend monthly CAC meetings - the second Tuesday of each month from 3 – 5 PM (the CAC does not meet in December or August)
- If you cannot attend a meeting – please email Terry Nowakowski, terrynowakowski@pschousing.org - Chair of the CAC
- Each member must join a sub-committee
 - Outreach & Engagement Committee
 - Membership Committee

Outreach & Engagement Committee

- Consumer Engagement/Outreach Committee gathers consumer engagement event ideas from CAC members. The CAC holds a variety of events such as public forums, listening sessions, focus groups, satisfaction surveys and other healthcare consumer activities throughout the year.
- The Committee will establish the yearly consumer engagement agenda and assess the size and demographics of those struggling with health disparities, emerging trends, service gaps and unmet needs in healthcare.
- The Committee also develops and executes work plans for consumer engagement activities and works with the OHS Consumer Engagement Unit as needed.

Membership Committee

- The Membership Committee meets each year in April to consider officers of the CAC and new members for approval at the annual meeting in June. It may also meet, when necessary, to address vacancies in officer positions, membership, or other member related business.

Healthcare is complex – we need the voice of the community as we move towards better integration of services and improvements in the quality and cost of care....



CAC aims to:

- Bring together consumer views that might not otherwise be heard
- Recommend and participate in consumer engagement activities
- Review and consider consumer input
- Identify gaps in healthcare services, inequity and emerging healthcare needs in CT communities

Gratitude...

- We are thankful to have you join us in this collective effort of bringing together individuals from each community as we look at healthcare from the lens of those **most vulnerable**.
- We are grateful that you are willing to give of **your time, effort** and **expertise** as we all tackle the problems of healthcare and work towards meaningful, sustainable change.
- Your efforts will perhaps **set the stage for future healthcare** innovation in the state of Connecticut.
- **Thank you for joining the CAC** – we look forward to work ahead and the relationships that will result!