

Keystone Pride Recovery Initiative Workgroup

We invite you to consider joining the Workgroup to contribute to the recognition, support, and recovery of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex behavioral health consumers in Pennsylvania.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKGROUP

The purpose of the Keystone Pride Recovery Initiative Workgroup is to assist OMHSAS in implementing the recommendations of the LGBTQI Workgroup: “Issues of Access to and Inclusion in Behavioral Health Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Intersex Consumers.”

These recommendations were made to Deputy Secretary Erney in July 2009, and the OMHSAS Advisory Council received them with enthusiasm in September. It is momentous for LGBTQI concerns to have such powerful endorsement from government officials, and both OMHSAS and the LGBTQI Workgroup that made the recommendations are eager for implementation to begin.

The recommendations themselves can be viewed online at <http://www.upennrrtc.org/var/tool/file/223-OMHSAS%20LGBTQI%20Workgroup%20Recommendations.pdf>.

THE WORKGROUP’S TASK

The Keystone Pride Recovery Initiative Workgroup will participate in the following tasks:

1. Provide advice, encouragement and people-power to OMHSAS for the implementation of the recommendations on training, consumer support, data collection and reporting practices.
2. Provide advice and encouragement to OMHSAS on the recommendations for policy changes.
3. Develop measurement and evaluation systems to track the impact of the recommendations.
4. Publicize the recommendations within and outside the PA behavioral health system.
5. Secure funding from public and private sources to support this implementation.

PRODUCT

The Workgroup will produce: 1) an implementation strategy and operational plans to support it; 2) a training plan that is rolled out beginning in 2010; 3) draft OMHSAS policies based on the recommendations; 4) initial steps in measurement and evaluation of the implementation; 5) a presence at 6-12 regional meetings of stakeholders to spread information on the Keystone Pride Recovery Initiative; and 6) a funding strategy and effectively-targeted grant proposals to support it.

COMPOSITION OF THE WORKGROUP:

The Workgroup will include up to 15-20 individuals, who represent LGBTQI issues as experienced across the State. The Workgroup will include a minimum of 51% consumers/families. Members will come from these populations:

- **Consumers** -- preferably behavioral health consumers who identify as LGBTQI
- **Families** -- preferably members of the LGBTQI community or people with children, youth, or other family members who identify as LGBTQI
- **Providers** -- preferably providers who have done significant work addressing LGBTQI issues
- **Counties** -- preferably individuals who have addressed LGBTQI issues within their counties
- **Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations** -- preferably individuals who have addressed LGBTQI issues within their organizations
- **Advocates/Universities/Others** -- individuals who have an interest in, and knowledge of, LGBTQI issues.
- **OMHSAS staff**

In addition, in order for the Workgroup to best represent the interests of all of the State's LGBTQI consumers, and to thus to most wisely support OMHSAS in implementing the recommendations, OMHSAS is looking exclusively for Workgroup members who share at least some of the following **specific characteristics**:

- LGBTQI youth
- LGBTQI people of color
- People who identify as transgender
- People from outside Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and State College, including people from rural areas and people from other cities and towns across the State
- People with skills and experience in the following areas: training; social service-related data collection and reporting; program measurement and evaluation; LGBTQI policy advocacy; and State policy implementation.

MEMBER COMMITMENT

Specifically, all Workgroup members commit to:

- Participating in conference calls, and face-to-face meetings in Harrisburg, as needed to carry out this work. Meeting frequency will be determined by the Workgroup and its Task Forces at their initial meetings.
- Reviewing background materials as appropriate *prior* to participating in meetings
- Reading group emails that are sent anywhere from twice each month to twice each week, and responding as appropriate
- Participating energetically in at least one Implementation Task Force: Research/Data, Training, Consumer Resources, Policy, and Funding
- Participating as described above at least through the 2010 calendar year

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in becoming a Workgroup member, please respond by e-mail **no later than Jan 18, 2010**, to Carol Ward-Colasante at ccolasante@state.pa.us. Please include:

- Your name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number
- What population you represent, from those listed above (e.g. consumers, advocates, providers, etc.)
- What specific characteristics you bring to the group, from those listed above (e.g. identifying as a gay youth or person of color, having some of the skills or experience specified, etc.)
- Your experience and knowledge of LGBTQI issues
- How you heard about the Workgroup

If you are selected for participation in the Keystone Pride Recovery Initiative Workgroup, you will be notified and appropriate materials will be sent to you.

The first meeting of the Workgroup will be a phone conference to be held in early February, with the specific date and time to be determined.