

Empowering Consumer Communities

Introducing the California Association of Mental Health Peer
Run Organizations (CAMHPRO)

Presented at CBHDA membership meeting, April 2014



What is CAMHPRO



Organized in 2012, CAMHPRO is a nonprofit statewide organization consisting of established consumer-run organizations and programs. CAMHPRO's mission is to transform communities and the mental health system throughout California to empower, support, and ensure the rights of consumers, eliminate stigma, and advance self-determination for all those affected by mental health issues by championing the work of consumer-run organizations.



What is CAMHPRO's Purpose

The purpose of CAMHPRO is to promote the work and mission of peer run organizations devoted to advocacy and empowerment for mental health consumers on a local, regional and state level.



Championing the work of Peer Run Programs

CAMHPRO Promotes

- The involvement of consumers at all levels of planning, policy, and programming for mental health and related systems.
- Advocacy efforts
 - To eliminate stigma and discrimination and promote social inclusion
 - To protect the rights of people with mental health issues, with special focus on self determination and choice



Championing the work of Peer Run Programs

CAMHPRO Promotes

- Consumer employment
 - Employment opportunities at all levels of the mental health system, including government and contract agencies
 - Growth of high quality peer support services and the peer support model across the health sector
 - Support for career development advancement for consumers in all areas
- Training and Education
 - Technical assistance for the development and growth of peer run organizations and programs based in evidence-based practices
 - Leadership, advocacy, organizational development, and empowerment training for groups and individuals
 - Conferences, evaluation training, self-help and other educational opportunities.



Commitment to Diversity

Diversity is an essential value for CAMHPRO, which is demonstrated in its Board leadership and well-represented by its constituent organizations which operate peer-support and self-help programs in the most diverse communities in the state.



Who Are CAMHPRO's Members

Current CAMHPRO member organizations

- Project Return Peer Support Network - Los Angeles County
- Consumers Self Help Center - Sacramento County
- Peers Recovery Art Project - Stanislaus County
- Circle of Friends - Solano County
- Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services -Alameda County
- Mental Health Association of San Francisco – San Francisco County
- Heart and Soul - San Mateo County
- Mental Health Consumer Action Network - Santa Cruz County
- Alameda County Network of Mental Health Clients –Alameda County
- Sunrays of Hope – Modoc County



Past Programs

- **Working Well Together (funded through Workforce Education and Training (WET) MHSAs funds)**

A Training and Technical Assistance Center launched in 2008 comprised of the following members of 4 member organizations representing consumers, family members, parent care givers (of younger children) and providers. The Technical Assistance Center's purpose was to ensure public mental health agencies are prepared to recruit, hire, train, support, and retain multicultural clients, family members, parents, and caregivers as employees within the public mental health system. The 5 year State contract terminated in June 30 2014.



Operating Programs

CAMHPRO in partnership with PEERS (the contractor) operates –

Client Stakeholder Project (funded through MHSOAC)

The CSP's goal is to obtain a better understanding of current mental health stakeholder processes in California so that this knowledge can be used for quality improvement purposes.

Activities include data collection, inventorying of the data, the creation and implementation of a stakeholder process curriculum, associated training, and technical assistance for clients. The project also promotes on going client involvement in mental health related committees and planning bodies.



WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE



Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services

Operating Programs

CAMHPRO in partnership with MHA SF (the contractor) operates –

- **Empowering Consumer Communities (ECC) (funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration)**

The purpose of ECC is to grow the capacity of CAMHPRO to serve, integrate and advance the mental health consumer voice as a force for recovery-oriented systems change at the state and local level. Through activities that 1) create a sustainable nexus for communication, learning and dialogue for consumers of all cultures across the state, 2) increase the effectiveness of local consumer-run organizations as agents of change in systems transformation and health policy, the project connects thousands of people living with mental health conditions to the activities and issues affecting consumers of mental health and primary care services.



Operating Programs

- **Cal MHSA Stigma and Discrimination Mini Grant Project (funded through the California Mental Health Services Authority)**

Mini-Grants for community based consumer run programs and organizations. The grant assistance is for program development and targeted technical assistance. This project provides assistance to develop infrastructure for consumer run/operated organizations and programs and expand Stigma and Discrimination Reduction (SDR) projects and programs.



Statewide Policy Work



Public Policy Committee

Active Public Policy Committee composed of consumers across the State and CAMHPRO Board Members

- Developed Public Policy plank
- 4 Priority Issues for 2014/15
 - Opposition to Involuntary Outpatient Commitment
 - Support growth of peer respite and crisis alternatives to hospitalization and forced treatment
 - Support implementation of peer certification in California
 - Work toward alternatives to incarceration and ending criminalization of people with mental health problems



Statewide Policy Work

Promote the work of the California Consumers involved in the Affordable Care Act

- Collaborate with mental health, substance use, and health organizations working on integrated health care
- Support peer roles in an integrated health care environment
- Explore and activate roles for consumer run programs in new healthcare settings such as managed care agencies
- Educate health care providers on a consumer centered/recovery based health care system



The Future

Goals for the Future

- Build CAMHPRO's Infrastructure with a minimum of 15 new members organization in next two years
- Create a recognizable and strong network of consumers for communication, learning, and dialogue throughout the State
- Develop a robust consumer advocacy and policy voice in California

Evidenced by

- Peer run respite and crisis programs will mushroom throughout California
- Peer certification will be implemented in California
- Consumer run programs and consumers will provide peer support activities in an integrated health environment
- Community forced treatment will not become acceptable practice for our society



CAMHPRO Board Members



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Consumers' Voice



Consumer March for Dignity organized by Mental Health Association of San Francisco – CAMHPRO member

