People with Lived Experience: Achieving Their Meaningful Involvement in Advisory Groups

June 7, 2019
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Cathy Cave, B.S.

Moderator

SAMHSA’s Homeless and Housing Resource Network
Agenda for Today

• Discussions with:
  - Arick Buckles
  - Cathie Buckner
  - Evan Voth, CPSW

• Questions and answers
• Closing
Type in the chat box and tell us:

What needs to happen today for this webinar to be time well spent?
What will make this webinar a “win” for you?
Today’s Presentation

• Three peers involved in advisory groups will talk about their experiences.

• We’ll discuss:
  ▪ The transformative role peers play in advisory capacities;
  ▪ The value of including peers in advisory roles to
    • The advisory body;
    • The individuals occupying these roles; and
    • Individuals experiencing homelessness; and
  ▪ Recommendations for further integrating peers into advisory roles.
Purpose of Advisory Boards

- Advise localities and policymakers on implementation and collaborative initiatives to end homelessness
- Review policies related to ending homelessness
- Review current and potential programs and activities to support people who are experiencing homelessness
- Participate in shaping the size, scope, and effectiveness of services
Essential Component for Service Coordination

- Nationally
- State-wide
- Locally
- Programmatically

HUD requires all Continuum of Care programs to establish a representative board.

Who Serves

- Membership size varies; 10–20 board members is typical.
- Terms vary; appointments are typically 2–3 years.
- Membership includes:
  - Local business leaders;
  - Local non-profits;
  - Faith community leaders;
  - Providers supporting people experiencing homelessness; and
  - People who have experienced homelessness.
Vital Voices of People with Lived Experience

- Inspire hope
- Offer perspective
- Promote systems reform
- Bring the reality of people’s lives to the advisory body, including issues related to safety, mental health, and substance use
- Encourage development of effective partnerships
- Offer feedback on resources, including outreach approaches and materials
- Share lived experiences and knowledge about exiting homelessness
- Enhance access to housing and resources
Meaningful Involvement

- Enhances the advisory’s ability to act
- Offers real-world opportunities to test possible solutions
- Honors the participant’s contributions
- Creates a way to reach out to others experiencing homelessness to engage them in advisory activities
- Provides opportunities to enhance personal skill development, community involvement, and connection
“The purpose of a Regional Homelessness Advisory Council is to provide an enduring and consistent forum for broad-based, collaborative, and strategic leadership on homelessness in Los Angeles.”


LET’S TALK: A CONVERSATION WITH TODAY’S GUESTS
Tell us about your personal involvement with the mental health system.
What would you like to share about your experience of homelessness?
What life experiences inspired you to get involved in an advisory group?
What are the unique perspectives you bring to your role on an advisory group?
How does the life experience you bring to advisory groups make a difference for the mission of that group?
How does your advisory role as a peer impact individuals experiencing homelessness?
How has your experience on an advisory board been helpful to you?
If you could give any advice to policymakers or program managers about working with peers on advisory groups, what would it be?
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS
Q&A With the Audience

Arick Buckles
Cathie Buckner
Evan Voth, CPSW
Moderator, Cathy Cave, BS
Moderator Contact Information

Cathy Cave, BS
Consultant
SAMHSA’s HHRN

cathycave55@gmail.com
Type in the chat box and tell us:

What is one thing that you will put into practice after this webinar?
What is one thing you learned today that surprised you?
Additional Spotlight Series Webinars

- Next webinar:
  - July 18, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. ET: 
    Safety and Supports for Women Experiencing Homelessness and Mental and/or Substance Use Disorders
SAMHSA’s mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America’s communities.

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