

Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery  
Public Awareness Committee Meeting Amended Minutes  
December 6, 2005

Present: Craig Dorin, Bobbi Donovan, Chris Weis, Wes Sowers, Sharon Alberts, Mike Gruber, Cheryl Becker, Jeannette Lee, and Lola Zographos

- It was decided that Jeannette and Craig would co-chair the ACCR PA committee. Wes and Mike will present this to the steering committee on Friday, December 9. It will be official after the steering committee approves.
- This committee will not sponsor any event at First Night this year.
- Discussion centered on the issue of "where should we move in the future"? Should we just focus on one event each year or add different kinds of events?
- It was decided we should have the Recovery Fair - but look into changing the location. This activity should be continued until we can transition into new activities and way of doing things.
- Mike Gruber and Jan Boyd (AHCI) recently held a focus group to receive more consumer input for the goals for ACCR. (People not currently involved with ACCR.)
- Some items they felt were important:
  - ❖ ACCR Web Site (42%)
  - ❖ Anti-stigma program (25%)
  - ❖ Consumer/provider dialogues (16%)
  - ❖ Educate consumers of their health care rights
  - ❖ No one said a new ACCR brochure was important
- They were then asked what projects they would be interested in working on:
  - ❖ Developing an information book for mental health and drug and alcohol issues (education committee has a new MH book)
  - ❖ Few people were interested in working on an anti-stigma program. *Consumer participation is critical for an anti-stigma campaign.*

- Specific tasks need to be defined for people to work on.
- It was suggested we have an ACCR PA meeting with a focus group to build on information received at the focus group, to encourage people to join this committee, and to sharpen the focus of the committee.
- There is a "Let Your Voice Be Heard" meeting scheduled for the fourth Thursday in January (AM at One Smithfield). We could ask them to stay for the afternoon for a focus group. Craig and Bobbi both volunteered to be facilitators.
  1. we need to decide the forum for the focus group
  2. decide what tasks to work on after the focus group
- **Next meeting will be January 3, 2006 at 11:30 at PSAN offices**