

**Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery**  
**Steering Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**8/26/05**

**Present:** Sharon Alberts, Sarah Goldstein, Tom Lee, Robin Spencer, Dave Else, Harold Hartger, Darlene Cridlin, Virginia Suplee, Judy Wood, Melissa Medice, Jan Boyd, Wes Sowers, and Mike Gruber.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Co-Chair Sarah Goldstein called the meeting to order.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the July 29, 2005 meeting were approved.

**Announcements**

1. The Recovery Festival is scheduled on Sunday, September 18 at Schenley Park. Details are posted on the ACCR website.
2. Contact information for members of the Steering Committee was distributed.

**Decision Items**

1. Review of Proposed Outcome Measures. Following the distribution of last month's minutes and the assigned task of developing outcome goals, Harriet Baum sent an email, which was distributed to all members of the Steering Committee, suggesting ACCR narrow its focus and use its limited resources in a more unified manner. There was discussion about this suggestion. There was consensus that ACCR needed to support the efforts of other organizations, share resources with one another when appropriate, and keep groups informed about the activities/initiatives of other groups.

Each of the five teams discussed the outcome goals they identified for ACCR. The draft outcomes are as follows:

Service users and family members provide leadership in service system improvement – Dave Else and Wes Sowers

1. Persons in recovery are engaged in leadership training.
2. Leadership curriculum is developed and available through programs for consumers and family members.
3. Employment, education, and volunteerism is actively promoted by providers and advocacy groups.
4. Incentives such as educational credits, awards, scholarships and stipends are in place and used in recruitment activities.

Raising public awareness of recovery – Tom Lee and Sharon Alberts

1. ACCR created and delivered the message of recovery to the general public.
2. ACCR hosted at one event in which 200 new members of the general community are made aware of recovery.
3. ACCR presented the message of recovery to the Spiritual Community through presentation to pastors and congregations.
4. ACCR had radio announcement presenting recovery to the general public.

Providing information, education, and tools about recovery to persons receiving services, family members, and providers – Mike Gruber and Judy Wood

1. Initial Outcome – change in knowledge, attitude, skills
  - Persons receiving services, family members and professionals will be hopeful that recovery is possible and will demonstrate a positive attitude about recovery.
2. Intermediate Outcome – change in behavior
  - Providers will utilize recovery practices in working with people utilizing services.
  - Providers will educate family members, when needed, to respect the choices of the person using services.
3. Longer term Outcome – change in status or condition
  1. Persons receiving services will experience reduced stigma in receiving services.

Sharing, collaborating, and communicating about recovery-related efforts – Jeannette Lee and Robin Spencer

- Inputs-mandatory attendance form consumers involved in groups, activities, and goal orientated programming directed towards success in recovery.
- Activates- Arts, music therapy, crafts, cooking, education, and physical activities to increase overall recovery.
- Outputs-Time should be used wisely; structure, and goals have to be an important component for ongoing recovery. Tolerance, experience and prior training to handle daily occurrences.
- Outcome-Long-term clean time, personal self-acceptance, awareness of possibilities to succeed in goals to obtain stability. Understand honesty and true meaning of what to do in a crisis situation as well as know who to ask for help. This person should be someone who is welcomed and made to feel important as a person.

Promoting best practices for recovery oriented services – Harold Hartger and Darlene Cridlin

The outcome is that ACCR has a relationship with the COE project which supports the implementation of best practices in recovery.

- Collaboration with Centers of Excellence in Recovery project to encourage providers to implement a variety of emerging best practices for recovery.
- Collaboration with COE to disseminate best practice information.
- Identify and promote training opportunities on best practices in recovery.

An additional outcome may include the utilization of the guidelines and indicators document that was developed by ACCR.

The observation was made that there was a wide range of how the goals were worded by each team and that there was confusion about what constituted a goal and what was an outcome. There was general agreement that the intent of this process is to move from general statements to more specific measures. Jan suggested a team work to get the outcome goals into a common format without changing the meaning of the outcome. Jan, Mike, Wes, Harold, Sarah, and Tom will work on this and present the revised outcomes to the Steering Committee at its next meeting. It was also decided that the Steering Committee would identify the goals/outcomes and the indicators of those outcomes and would allow the various committees to identify the methods or activities to accomplish those outcomes.

The Steering Committee was not interested in holding a retreat at this time to develop a strategic plan around goals and outcomes.

### **Discussion Items**

#### *1. Committee Reports.*

- a. Public Awareness – Wes - People can attend the Recovery Festival picnic but don't have to walk. Only people who pay the \$10 registration fee will receive raffle ticket for prizes to be given away. The Committee has decided that everyone should receive a T-shirt. There will be a shuttle from the Carnegie Library in Oakland to the event site in Schenley Park.
- b. Education Committee – Virginia and Mike –The joint ACCR/NFI Recovery booklet is waiting for PSAN to finalize the name of its new WarmLine and to obtain a telephone number for the WarmLine. Once that occurs, the information will be added to the booklet and it will go to the printer. The NFI team met with Taylor Anderson and expressed concern about a number of issues related to the project. She agreed to take these back to her team at Drexel and to OMHSAS staff.
- c. QI Committee – Wes – A meeting is scheduled for September 2 to begin discussion of developing a unified treatment plan for consumers.

- d. Family/Children Committee – Wes – The committee is close to completing work on a Recovery-Resiliency crosswalk that will be used as a handout.
  - e. Consumer/Provider Collaborative – Wes and Sarah - Have done several dialogues and are scheduling several more including a trialogue. Are also developing written guidelines for providers interested in scheduling their own dialogues.
  - f. Nominating Committee- Sarah and Mike – Harold developed a draft process for the Nominating Committee to follow. This will be circulated among committee members and then implemented once agreed upon.
2. As part of her job duties for AHCI, Jan will now be spending 50% of her time working for ACCR. She and Mike will be meeting to discuss how that might be handled.
3. Website Update – Letters have gone out to a number of groups announcing the website. Organizations were asked to inform consumers and staff about the existence of the website, provide ACCR information about itself to be posted on the website, and to link to ACCR’s website on their own website, if they have one. Mike and Jeannette are working on developing a new section of the website called Recovery Stories. Jeannette is contacting some consumers and family members to work with her on developing a process for getting stories onto the website. Wes suggested posting recovery stories from last year’s Recovery Celebration event that are in the possession of Ken Thompson and obtaining similar material from Harriet Baum from the NAMI Conference. Mike will follow-up with both individuals.

**Next Meeting:**

**September 30, 2005 – 12:30-2:15      Life’s Work, 1323 Forbes Avenue**