

**Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
12/09/05**

Present: Sarah Goldstein, John Cassase, Sharon Alberts, Judy Wood, Jan Boyd, Wes Sowers, Robin Spencer, Jeannette Lee, Curtis Upsher, and Harold Hartger, Mike Gruber.

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Sharon Alberts called the meeting to order.

Announcements

1. Sarah and Virginia presented at Mercy Behavioral Health's Peer Facilitator Group Training conducted by Harold Hartger. They recruited 7 people to participate on various ACCR committees.
2. Message Carriers' The Tree of Life Ceremony is scheduled for 12/19/05 at the County Court House from 11:30-12:30. Pastor Curtis of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church will be this year's honoree. All ACCR members are invited to attend.

Minutes

Minutes from the 10/28/05 meeting were approved.

Decision Items

1. Sarah and Sharon discussed their concerns about conduct at meetings and presented a list of suggested meeting practices for adoption. The list was discussed and approved by the Committee.
2. Craig Dorin was nominated by the Public Relations Committee to serve as one of the Co-Chairs. His nomination was approved unanimously by the Committee.
3. The revised Letter of Agreement with the Mental Health Association regarding the Emerging Leadership Institute was approved by a vote of 9-0 with one abstention.

Discussion Items

1. *Resolution for Letter of Agreement.*
A draft Letter of Agreement (LOA) process was presented for discussion. Concerns were expressed about ACCR sub-committees' having final approval on letters of agreement. There was consensus that this authority should reside with the Steering Committee. Mike Gruber will revise the draft resolution and present it at the next meeting.
2. *Goals and Outcomes*
Jan Boyd handed out her report and summarized the results of the consumer focus group conducted by her and Mike Gruber. Participants were selected who have

not had involvement with ACCR. The top four priorities identified by the focus group members are in descending order of ranking:

- Developing the ACCR website for sharing of information and events about recovery (42%).
- Identifying places for people who receive leadership training to use their skills (33%)
- Recovery trainings for providers and their service users (25%)
- Conducting an anti-stigma/recovery media campaign (25%)

There was discussion about how the final goals and objectives for ACCR should be decided and what the interplay would be between the Steering Committee and the sub-committees. The SC unanimously approved the following motion: “The Steering Committee will have the final approval over all activities proposed by the other ACCR committees.”

There was also discussion about enhancing participation by consumers. Harold Hartger reminded the Committee that an ad hoc Membership Committee had recommended providing membership cards, a quarterly newsletter, and providing bus tickets for those who need transportation reimbursement as ways to increase participation.

3. *January Meeting*

The primary agenda for the next meeting will be finalizing ACCR goals and activities and establishing priorities for the coming year.

There was discussion about members having notification of agenda items prior to the SC meeting. Members are requested to submit agenda items for discussion or decision no later than 2 weeks prior to the SC meeting. Items submitted after that may not be able to be addressed by the SC. The January deadline is the 13th.

Next Meeting:

January 27, 2006 – 12:30-2:15 Life’s Work, 1323 Forbes Avenue