

### **Planning Council Charge, Role and Activities:**

The By-laws of the Ohio Community Support Planning Council state:

*The Planning Council's primary purpose shall be to maintain and support the concept of community support systems within all levels of the mental health care service delivery system, and to promote state-of-the-art systems, services, treatment, and the supports which are based on Community Support Services (CSS) and culturally competent mental health recovery principles.*

*The Planning Council shall encourage state and local mental health authorities to provide all necessary treatments, programs, and supports to improve outcomes, encourage mental health recovery, enhance the quality of life of people with mental illness; and promote the inclusion of consumers and family members/significant others in all levels of planning, provision and evaluation of services provided by Ohio's mental health system.*

*The functions of the Planning Council are to be a forum for continuing communication between key constituencies having a high interest in issues which affect persons identified as mentally ill; identify issues and service needs for adults and children with mental illness; advocate for persons with mental illness and their families; monitor, review, and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services in Ohio; receive feedback from other constituent groups; provide recommendations to ODMH on priorities and plans for the provision of mental health services; and any other duties or activities as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Department of Mental Health and/or the Planning Council.*

*The Planning Council shall have the authority to promote and carry out its work as outlined in Public Law 102-321 (formerly Public Law 99-660), other related documents, and the Block Grant review guidelines. The Planning Council shall act as otherwise directed with the approval of the ODMH Director or their designee.*

### **Membership:**

The primary body of the Planning Council shall be composed of 44 persons including 23 consumers, families, and families of children from the seven (7) designated regions, and other consumer, family member, and children's organizations. In addition, four (4) persons will represent providers; two are youth advocates; one (1) ODMH staff designee; and eleven (11) represent the identified professional associations and SAMHSA required state agencies and three (3) departments and 3 ad-hoc positions for emerging target populations (i.e., Veterans, Aging, and GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender)). Not less than 50% of the membership shall be consumers of mental health services, and family members of adult and child consumers. The delegate to Planning Council from Ohio Job and Family Service represents both Medicaid and Social Services.

### **Summary of Planning Council's efforts and related duties as mandated by law:**

*Section 1914: The state will establish and maintain a State Mental Health Planning Council in accordance with the conditions described in this section. The duties of the Planning Council are:*

- 1. to review plans provided to the Council pursuant to section 1915(a) by the State involved and to submit to the State any recommendations of the Council for modifications to the plans;*
- 2. to serve as an advocate for adults with a serious mental illness, children with a severe emotional disturbance, and other individuals with mental illness or emotional problems.*
- 3. to monitor, review and evaluate, not less than once each year, the allocation and adequacy of mental health services within the State.*

The Council established committees which have goals and minutes for their meetings. Planning Council uses work from the committees to make recommendations to ODMH. Goal development was a major focus during the past year. Committees and their activities include:

- Adult Committee – examines ways to increase employment among adult mental health consumers.
- Children's Committee – makes recommendations on how to improve transitional age services for youth.
- Evaluation Committee – reviews Council attendance issues, evaluates the effectiveness and long-term success of the Council and assesses the effectiveness of Block Grant expenditures.
- Block Grant Committee/Transformation State Incentive Grant (TSIG) Committee – reviews, comments on and monitors Block Grant Plan and related activities. This group serves in a secondary advisory capacity for TSIG.
- Membership Committee – makes recommendations for new members and ensures an equitable and geographic distribution of members.
- Executive Committee – guides the work of the Council and coordinates activities with ODMH staff.

Lisa Oswald represented Planning Council at the 2008 National SAMHSA Block Grant Conference. Additionally, many members participate in a variety of ODMH-sponsored strategic planning committees, interagency coalitions and initiative steering workgroups, including TSIG planning activities.

### **Transformational Activities:**

Planning Council wrote a letter of support in September 2007 for the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan (CMHP) for TSIG, similar to the Block Grant Comment Letters. The Planning Council serves in a secondary advisory capacity for the CMHP, and meets with TSIG leadership. Some Planning Council members are also members of TSIG-funded Peer Consultants, who are consumers and family members who receive stipends and mileage for serving on initiative workgroups, known as Content Working Groups (CWGs). Cassandra Rufat, a long-time Planning Council member, serves on the Transformation Work Group which includes directors of state agencies and leads the Peer Consultants group.