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| CHAPTER: 4 | SECTION: 43 | SUBJECT: Individual Care to Consumers |
| TITLE: PEER LED SUPPORT GROUPS | | |
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| ISSUED AND APPROVED BY:  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | | |

PURPOSE

To define the scope of CMHOC involvement in the formation, promotion, and coordination of peer-led support groups.

I. POLICY

It is the policy of CMHOC to encourage the establishment of best-practice recovery-oriented peer-led support groups related to SMI and/or substance abuse disorders by offering technical assistance, promotional help, and building resources as available.

II. PROCEDURE

1. CMHOC clinical staff as designated by agency leadership will be available to offer information and initial technical assistance to individuals served who are seeking to establish best-practice, recovery-oriented support groups. This assistance may include linking individuals served with proven and effective national, regional, or local resources (such as Dual Recovery, Double Trouble, Schizophrenics Anonymous, etc.); suggesting materials to be used by support groups; identifying Internet web sites or other media that would be helpful for support group participants; providing information on group dynamics and the elements of successful group work; providing information on group conflict resolution methods; supplying information on available meeting sites within the community, or other technical assistance as requested and within reason.
2. CMHOC technical assistance will be limited to SMI/substance abuse conditions that fall within eligibility criteria for CMHOC services. Issues such as grief/loss, adoption, physical disability, etc., will not be the focus of CMHOC technical assistance. CMHOC assistance will be directed at addressing gaps in existing community supports.
3. CMHOC will not reimburse individuals served for establishing or leading support groups.
4. The use of community-based meeting sites, such as Drop-In Center or other non-CMHOC buildings will be encouraged.
5. CMHOC will offer peer-led support groups meeting space as available. Meeting rooms that are readily accessible to the public will be considered for use by peer led groups.
6. Agency leadership will designate a support staff contact person with whom support groups can coordinate for meetings rooms/times. Support groups who receive permission to meet in CMHOC offices will be provided a checklist outlining pertinent information.

7. CMHOC will publicize and promote support group meetings by including notices in newsletters and posting flyers and posters in agency buildings. Initial technical assistance may include helping support groups design and produce promotional materials.

III. ATTACHMENT: Consumer Led Groups Checklist