

Transforming ... The Role of NACSMHA

National Association of Consumer
Survivor Mental Health
Administrators (NACSMHA)

NASMHPD Summer Meeting
July 12, 2005

Our Background

- 1989 - 1st state office of consumer affairs
- 1992 - 8 OCA directors met about common issues and support
- 1993-1994 - established NACCSMA to
 - Serve needs of senior managers who are
 - Self identified current or former mental health consumers
 - Senior managers in state mental health authorities
 - Provide support and technical assistance for OCAs

Our Background

- 1996 - NACSMHA incorporated as a 501c(3) entity
- 1996 - formal MOU with NASMHPD
- 1997-2000 - growth and change
- 2002-2004 - annual technical assistance meetings for OCA directors and staff
- August 2004 - celebrate 10 years mark with 75 people in attendance from over 40 states

Our Unique Role

- Qualified leaders, administrators and managers
- Shared life experience of mental illness
- Able to wear many hats
- Bring the voice of many perspectives into mental health systems
- Bridge between mental health systems and those they serve

NACSMHA Activities

- Technical assistance to OCA
 - Policy and regulatory development
 - Program planning
 - Evaluation and monitoring
 - Training
 - Finance and contract management
 - Complaints and grievances
- Professional networking and development

NACSMHA Activities

- Conduit for consumer voice at national level
 - National organizations
 - Workgroups
 - Expert panels
- Partners with mental health authority organizations
 - CMHS
 - NASMHPD

NACSMHA Activities

- Develop/collaborate on specific materials
 - Office of consumer affairs manual
 - Restraint and seclusion reduction training
 - Certified peer specialist toolkit
- Information and reference on current issues in mental health administration
- Peer Support for OCA Directors and staff
 - State level offices
 - Local offices

The Future

- Leadership in system transformation
- Targeted technical support
- Strengthen and formalize partnerships
 - NASMHPD
- Lead efforts for national consumer memorial
- Increase infrastructure capacity