

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health

**CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN WCCMH COMMITTEES**

***PURPOSE***

- Clarify and establish responsibility for following approved guidelines for consumer participation in committees.
- Applies to all consumers, chairs of all WCCMH committees, other WCCMH employees, students, volunteers as designated or applicable.

***POLICY***

- It is to the benefit of WCCMH to have consumer participation in local committees in order to provide an ongoing consumer voice within the design and delivery of services.
- Consumers participating in committee work within a system where they receive supports and services provide particular value, but are also faced with unique challenges. It is our obligation to ensure a supportive structure for the participation of consumers within WCCMH committees.
- WCCMH shall promote consumer participation in committees by providing appropriate orientations, mentorship as needed, and per diem payments for committee participation.

***DEFINITIONS***

Consumer: An individual or family member of an individual who receives or has received services from WCCMH.

Orientation: An individual session that includes:

- A discussion of each particular consumer participants support needs in order to regularly attend and fully participate in the committee meetings.
- An explanation of the ongoing mentorship available to each consumer participant from the committee chair.
- A brief overview of all services offered at CMH.
- Any history or description of, current minutes, agenda, membership, etc of the specific committee that the consumer participant is being oriented to.
- A clear explanation of the optional per diem amount for committee participation and completion of any necessary paperwork to insure per diem payment.
- A discussion of the particular consumer participant's transportation needs in order to regularly attend the committee meetings and if needed provide support to problem solve any difficulties.

Mentorship: Any ongoing coaching needed to assist the individual in being able to fully participate in the work of the committee.

Per Diem: An optional monetary reimbursement for time spent participating in committee work.

***PROCEDURE(S)***

*See procedures manual.*

***REFERENCES/ NOTES***

- Gobel, S., 1995, "Not Another Board Meeting" Oregon Developmental Disabilities Council

***EXHIBITS***

***None***