

Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
wellnessrecoveryprevention
laying the foundation for healthy communities, together

222 South Warren Street
Capital Place One, 3rd floor
Trenton NJ 08625-0700
609-292-5760
Email: dmhas@dhs.state.nj.us
www.state.nj.us/humanservices/das/boards/citizen/



Citizens' Advisory Council

Empowerment through education and access to resources

The Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) is composed of consumer and citizen members representing the voices of New Jersey residents at risk for, struggling with, or otherwise affected by the chronic disease of addiction. The CAC supports education, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery from alcohol, drug, gambling, and other addictive disorders and the elimination of associated stigma. The Council provides input and guidance to DMHAS in furthering its mission, linking the Division with consumers and advocating for the needs and interests of individuals, families, and communities. The Council functions as a resource to the Division through which to communicate and collaborate with "consumers" in fulfilling its mission of developing and sustaining a system of recovery oriented care. Members participate in meetings and/or teleconferences and on subcommittees as necessary, developing policies and procedures to move the system to a more client centered and recovery oriented system of care.

- We are consumers and citizens representing the voices of New Jersey residents at risk for, struggling with, or otherwise affected by the chronic disease of addiction.
- We support education, prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery from addictive disorders.
- We support and advocate for the reduction of stigma often attached to addiction by the addicted, their family members and the community
- We provide input and guidance to the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, furthering its mission by linking the division with consumers.
- We believe that all citizens have a right to access to prevention, treatment, recovery and support services
- We believe an educated informed consumer of addiction services can make better decisions.
- We believe recovery-oriented, client-centered treatment services are essential and advocate for same.

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The Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) is always seeking new members. We are especially interested in inviting consumer and citizen members who will represent the voices of New Jersey residents at risk for, struggling with, or otherwise affected by the chronic disease of addiction. Members will represent the various and diverse interests, issues and perspectives of consumers of addictive illness prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services, including families, employers and others who are affected by addiction. Individuals who may apply: Any person who is a citizen of the State of New Jersey; persons with experience either as a consumer, provider or family member of an individual in recovery or struggling with addiction; and, also persons who work for DMHAS-funded agencies or programs and/or who serve on the Board of Directors of DMHAS-funded agencies are eligible for membership on the CAC.

Location and meeting accommodations: Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Intoxicated Driving Program, Quakerbridge Plaza, Building 9, 3rd Floor, Mercerville, NJ 08619 from 9:15am to 11:45am.

Interested? Contact us today at 609-292-5760 or dmhas@dhs.state.nj.us

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- We advocate for recovery from addiction believing that those who overcome addiction assimilate back into society and can make vital contributions to that society.
- We recognize that stigma about addiction acts as a barrier to treatment and that by reducing stigma we can encourage more people to seek recovery services.
- We see a need to educate the business and local communities about the positive contributions that can be made by individuals recovering from addictive disorders.
- We recognize the need to provide education for consumers on the nature of addiction and the availability of service to overcome those addictions.
- We recognize the importance of relapse prevention and education; understand the chronic nature of addiction and the need to raise awareness about risks of relapse.
- We understand that there is a need for continuity of services for consumers of addiction services beyond treatment which can include food, transportation, employment and living and coping skills.
- We see ourselves as a vital link between the consumer of addiction services and the provider of same.
- We strongly support the recovery zone concept.
- Our priorities include communication about addiction as a disease and its impact upon our decisions, expanding consumer linkages and advocating for the consumer.
- In any overall scheme of addiction and recovery the voice of the consumer is vital to the process. We meet the third Thursday of every month within the purview of The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to speak for the citizens and consumers of addiction services.