

## Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning Workgroup

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Workgroup is to assist OMHSAS in developing and implementing a statewide LGBTQ plan of action for the Pennsylvania Behavioral Health System.

### **TASK:**

The LGBTQ Workgroup will participate in the following tasks:

- 1) Provide input to help shape the development of a statewide behavioral health plan on LGBTQ issues.
- 2) Help design and attend regional stakeholder forums to solicit input on the plan
- 3) Provide input on prioritizing implementation strategies from the plan.
- 4) Provide feedback on possible strategies/priorities for grant writing opportunities.

### **PRODUCT:**

The workgroup will: 1) Develop a Pennsylvania LGBTQ plan for the behavioral health system; 2) Design and sponsor 4-8 regional stakeholder meetings on the plan; 3) Prioritize implementation strategies from the plan; 4) Provide grant writing recommendations.

### **COMPOSITION OF THE WORKGROUP:**

The workgroup will include up to 20-25 individuals, who represent LGBTQ issues as experienced across the State. The workgroup will include a minimum of 51% consumers/families. Specific membership is as follows:

- **Consumers**—preferably individuals who represent the LGBTQ community, including transition-age youth
- **Families**-preferably individuals who represent the LGBTQ community and have children/youth and/or individuals/family members who represent the LGBTQ community
- **Provider representatives**—preferably providers that have significantly worked with/addressed LGBTQ issues
- **Counties**—preferably individuals who have addressed these issues within their county.
- **Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations** –preferably individuals who have addressed these issues within their organization.
- **Advocates/Universities/Others**—preferably individuals who have an interest in/knowledge of LGBTQ issues.
- **OMHSAS staff**

### **MEMBER COMMITMENT:**

It is the intention that this group will be time-limited. Timelines and level of commitment related to each task are outlined below. Workgroup members will be expected to review materials *prior to* meeting attendance and to consistently attend meetings in Harrisburg. If you are selected for this workgroup, you will be notified and appropriate materials will be sent to you.

Specific Commitments:

The workgroup will meet monthly, as needed, beginning in December 2008 through June, 2009, to develop the LGBTQ plan, to plan and sponsor regional stakeholder forums on the plan, to provide input on grant writing, and to begin prioritizing strategies for implementation. Frequency/need for meetings in 2009-10 will be reviewed at the June 2009 meeting.

**RESPONSE DEADLINE:**

If interested, please respond by e-mail **no later than Dec 1, 2008**, to Carol Ward-Colasante at [ccolasante@state.pa.us](mailto:ccolasante@state.pa.us). Include your name, address, e-mail address, who you represent (consumer, advocate, agency, group, committee, etc), as well as your experience/knowledge of LGBTQ issues. Please also provide a short description of why you would like to participate in this workgroup.

**FIRST MEETING:**

**Where and When:** The first meeting will be held in December (date to be announced) 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the DGS Annex Complex, formerly the Harrisburg State Hospital, 20 Azalea Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-3593. ***Parking instructions will be e-mailed prior to the meeting to those selected for workgroup membership.***