THE ACTIVIST CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD

Using CABs for Policy Advocacy, Health Education and Social Justice
PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES
Facilitated Discussion
Purpose of this Workshop

Advocate for CABs to take an “Activist” role in their
- activities
- relationship to facility management
- relationship to the community
We define “Activist Role” as engaging in activities that

- promote the facility’s mission
- educates and empowers consumers to take control of their health care, and
- informs the community on homelessness matters.
Three Activist CABs
Tips for Successful Activities

Choose activities that

- Have Mutual Benefit to Consumers and Your Facility
- Tie into Clinical Quality Indicators
- Engage Consumers -- Interesting and Fun!
Barriers to Activism

- Facility Management
- Political Issues
- Federal Regulatory
- Cultural Sensitivity
Why Are CABs Important?

Legal Reasons

- It's a legal requirement that the Boards of Directors of all federally qualified health centers be comprised of 51% of the individuals served by the clinic.

- Because it's difficult to get 51% participation of those who are experiencing homelessness, the federal government can waive the 51% requirement.

- Under one type of waiver, HCHs can form a “Consumer Advisory Board or CAB” comprised of those persons who are currently or formerly homeless and whom are receiving services at the clinic. Certain CAB members would also sit on the clinic's Board of Directors.
Why Are CABs Important

Practical Reasons

▸ Clinics more effectively achieve their mission through input, feedback and collaboration of those whom you serve.

▸ CABs provide a forum for those whose opinion is routinely ignored, and sponsor therapeutic activities.

▸ CABs also perform an important advocacy role and sensitize the public to homelessness issues.
Camillus CAB
Miami, Florida

- About three years ago we were at a low point. We were lucky to get six persons to attend our monthly meetings, and we didn’t have an active slate of activities.
- So we reorganized, established internal committees that empowered all CAB members as leaders, validated members ideas and initiatives, and launched variety of projects.
- Now, we routinely get 50 or more persons attending our meetings. Our membership roll grew so much that we had to cap the number of voting CAB members and institute a new category of CAB member called “ambassadors.”
Some of our recent key activities ...

- CAB Serves Lunch
Therapeutic Arts Classes
Annual Camillus Arts Fair
Annual Health Fair
Summer Solstice Celebration

Summer Solstice Celebration: 
From our Darkest Day to our Brightest Day

From the Darkness and Despair of Life on the Street to the Light and Hope of Life Beyond.

In preparation for this year’s Summer Solstice, the Camillus Consumer Advisory Board invites you to join us as we celebrate individuals who are breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Friday, June 19, 2015 
starting at 2:30 PM

Camillus House Campus
Bank of America Community Room
1603 NW 7th Avenue
Miami, FL 33136

Join us for an Ice Cream Social after the event.

Campus parking is accessible through NW 15th Street from NW 7th Avenue
Health Education
Homeless Persons Memorial Day
Camillus Homeless Persons Memorial Day
Camillus Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day
Spoken Word Tribute

December 21, 2015
Starting at 2 PM

Wells Fargo Courtyard
Camillus House NCL Campus
(Refreshments at 3 PM)

On the first day of winter
On the longest night of the year

We Remember.

Presented by the Camillus Health Consumer Advisory Board
Where are we going?

- Legislative Advocacy
- Community Engagement
- Peer to Peer Support