

New York State Office of Mental Health

Recipient Advisory Committee (RAC)

Duties and Responsibilities

The RAC shall have no executive, administrative or appointive duties.

In cooperation with Director of Recipient Affairs, the committee shall obtain broad grassroots input from recipients; establish statewide goals and objectives; promote choice; and shall advise the commissioner on matters related to development, implementation and operation of the public mental health system.

The committee shall have the power to consider any matter relating to the improvement of the state mental health program and shall advise the commissioner of mental hygiene on any matter relating to the performance of their duties with relation to persons with mental illness on policies, goals, budget and operation of mental health services.

State Planning Duties

The committee shall assist the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene with the development of state plans. To ensure the full use of existing specialized and generic services in the community; to ensure that all providers and appropriate local governmental agencies are involved; and to ensure that local services to individuals with mental illness and their families are readily available and accessible, the committee shall periodically assess the local planning process and make recommendations to the Commissioner and to the Director of Recipient Affairs.

The committee shall assist the Director of Recipient Affairs in creating and expanding networking opportunities for recipients and recipient organizations across NYS.

Members of RAC may be asked to:

- Review and comment on draft documents.
- Participate in the writing of position papers and letters.
- Meet periodically with OMH staff for updates on current issues.
- Facilitate two-way communication between OMH and consumer/survivors in local communities across the state.
- Participate on task forces, committees and meeting which address current issues in mental health.
- Represent consumer/survivor viewpoints on systems issues.
- Serve as a liaison among grassroots consumer/survivor groups, regional planning advisory committees and local mental health departments.
- Disseminate factual information obtained at RAC meeting.

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