

Office of Community Voices and Empowerment

Overview

The Health Care Authority's (HCA) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) Office of Community Voices and Empowerment (OCVE) is a transparent, zero barrier, no wrong door, collaborative approach to community involvement in Washington State's behavioral health system. We provide platforms and opportunities for empowerment to those with lived and living experience, families, and others impacted to have a voice and choice in how our systems work, while adhering to the guiding principles of hope and resiliency.

Vision

We share in the vision that our communities and systems of care value, embrace, and respond to the diverse voices and perspectives of all those with lived and living experience regardless of insurance ability or immigration status.

Community voice

OCVE is guided by a statewide Advisory Committee consisting of individuals, families, and caregivers from across the state, who have lived or living expertise within Washington's Behavioral Health Systems. We include DBHR and Agency liaisons, who also identify as having lived or living experience in behavioral health services, to assist in building and maintaining a cooperative bridge of collaboration between government and community.

The Advisory Committee's collective voices are utilized to inform policies, practices, and resources for statewide behavioral health services with the goal of bridging gaps and removing barriers in the care continuum to ensure everyone who resides in Washington State has equitable access to the resources they need to live well.

Advocacy and leadership

OCVE takes an active role in the representation of the lived and living experience community by centering community voice and choice in internal and external HCA activities, initiatives, funding, policies, programming, and services. We promote individualized person-centered wellness and recovery in the work of HCA.

OCVE collaborates with communities and community partners to identify and support new and emerging leaders and support the empowerment of communities by providing opportunities to engage in leadership, advocacy, and community capacity building throughout the state.

For more information

Contact: HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov

Dakota Steel (He/Him)
Senior Administrator
HCA Office of Community Voices and
Empowerment

Or visit <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/behavioral-health-and-recovery/office-community-voices-and-empowerment>