# The Consumer Voice in Behavioral Health: A Powerful Tool

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#### **Hogg Foundation for Mental Health**

To improve the mental health of all Texans

- Grant making
- o Public policy
- Research and education



#### **Consumer and Family Involvement**

Involve consumers and family members in the day-to-day operations and decision-making processes of the foundation







# What Consumers and Families Can Contribute to the Foundation

- Heighten awareness around recovery
- Reduce stigma and discrimination
- Enhance understanding of consumer and family culture
- Align policies and practices with values
- Outreach to communities

# Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Consumer and Family Liaisons



- Mental health related projects with consumer, youth and family involvement
- Track emerging consumer, youth and family issues
- Provide technical assistance to grantees
- Represent the foundation at local, state and national meetings

#### What Have We Accomplished?

- Collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services for Peer Specialist Certification
- Launched an initiative in East Texas to identify individuals and support the development of consumer leaders
- Held a recovery-focused conference
- Participating in the grassroots development of a statewide consumer advocacy network
- Speaking around the state about the importance of hope, recovery perspective and consumer and family involvement.
- Reviewed grant-making policies and procedures

## What Consumers, Youth and Families Can Contribute to Their Communities

- Living models of recovery
- Share life experience with other consumers and family members for inspiration, hope and support
- Serve as advisors, consultants and advocates; provide leadership around consumer and family issues

#### What Can Foundations Do?

- Focus on recovery and wellness
- Use consumers and family members as consultants on mental health related projects
- Encourage potential grantees to include consumer, youth and family involvement
- Fund consumer-operated service providers
- Check your own grant-making policies and procedures



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