



Prosumer Action Center
(COS Grant – FY 2011)
Second Quarter Report FY '11

This report is for the Second Quarter, fiscal year 2011 for the Prosumer Action Center.

Narrative:

In the Second Quarter for fiscal year 2011, the Prosumer Action Center had a lot of activity. We did a lot of legislative work during the quarter. We testified on bills, offered opinions and feedback on various bills. We also made consumers aware of upcoming legislation.

Additionally, the Prosumer Action Center held a job fair where we had 44 consumers attend.

Members of the Prosumers participated in the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Advisory group, The ViaHope Advisory Group, the Hogg Foundation Restraint and Seclusion Task Force, The Recovery Focused Learning Community, and participated in the Texas Association of Non-Profit Organization (TANO) Conference. We also became members of TANO.

A few members of the Prosumers were invited to the 41st National Conference on Mental Health and Addictions Conference in San Diego. We participated and learned from our experience. We also attended the Conference on Global Transformation in San Francisco. Here we were able to start seeing a global perspective on the goals of the Prosumer Action Center.

The Project Coordinators are Board Members of the Texas Catalyst's for Empowerment (TCE). This is a group that is looking to develop the consumer leaders in Texas. We are planning to have a Leadership Symposium in August to bring tools and skills to the consumers in Texas.

We continue to grow and expand. We are looking to see about bringing a drumming class to the Prosumer Action Center. We are hopeful that our local artist, Joyce Stalche will be joining us in teaching classes.

We are also looking to move our Evening Prosumer Meeting to the Prosumer Action Center in July. We will be moving the Day meeting to the Prosumer Action Center in August. This will give us some consistence in meeting places and help grow our center.

The following services were provided in the Second Quarter:

Advocacy on behalf of consumers:

- Participated in monthly COS Technical Assistance call ensuring that groups around the state know what is being accomplished at the Prosumer Action Center and networking with other COS groups.
- Project Coordinators represented the Prosumers at the Texas Catalyst for Empowerment Teleconference meeting on Conferences.
- The Executive Director and Office Manager Testified in Austin for the victims of Human Trafficking Bill
- Prosumers represented the Prosumer point of view on the Behavioral Planning and Network Advisory Committee for the Center for Health Care Services, ensuring a strong voice in the review of RFPs for services.
- The Members of the Prosumer Action Center Testified in Austin for the People with Mental Illness who were Incarcerated Bill

Assist consumers in obtaining employment:

- Three Journeymen continued their development as a Peer Specialists
- Two Apprentices worked on developing time management skills and communication skills, while providing invaluable services to the running of the Prosumer Action Center.
- Five Volunteers provided great service to the Prosumer Action Center as they develop the basic skills for job readiness.
- Presented at the Texas Dept. of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services for the South Region to how to use us as a resource
- We continued to collect clothing for the Business Dress closet and several people found clothing they could use in volunteer and employment settings.

Provide consumers information and referral to services needed:

- Eighty-two (82) new visitors were given information about the Prosumer Action Center
- Provided referral assistance for seventeen (17) people to Mental Health Information/Professionals
- Provided referral assistance for two (2) people for child care
- Provided referral assistance for one (1) people for housing
- Provided referral assistance for six (6) people for work
- Provided referral assistance for three (3) people for furniture/appliances
- Provided referral assistance for four (4) people for clothing
- Provided referral assistance for two (2) people for computer classes
- Provided referral assistance for two (2) people for transportation

Disseminate information relating to acquiring mental health services needed to reside within their community:

- Newsletter provided to a circulation of 7103 with 6500 hardcopy and 403 electronic
- Prosumer day meetings in San Antonio had 133 in attendance
- Prosumer evening meeting in San Antonio 49 in attendance

Outreach to consumers and families:

- Outreach resulted in eighty-two new visitors in the Second Quarter to the Prosumer Action Center
- Prosumer Action Center Facebook group now has eighty-eight (88) members
- Eighteen people are following Prosumers on Twitter

Peer support groups or drop-in centers

The Second Quarter was dedicated to developing and training people in several groups.

Tuesdays – 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Skills Building	70 attendees
On various days and times	Recovery 101	24 attendees
Ongoing	Computer Skills and Usage	11 attendees
Wednesdays – 1:00pm to 3:00pm	Social – Games, Movies,	30 attendees
Mondays – 2:00pm to 3:00pm	Laughing Qigong	20 attendees
Friday	Journaling	4 attendees
Thursdays 11 am – 1 pm	Arts and Crafts	2 attendees

Technical assistance and training to assist consumers to develop skills necessary to reside within their community:

- Four people participated in the train the trainer sessions of Recovery 101
- Two people testified on SB 24 in Austin, TX
- Fifty-two people participated in the job fair
- Three people went to sign on in favor of SB 24 in Austin, TX
- Seven people were given information on mental health services

Access to basic human shelter, food and clothing:

- Provided referral assistance for eight (8) people for job related clothes
- Provided referral assistance for two (2) people for food
- Provided referral assistance for two (2) person for housing

Empower consumers to become self-sufficient within their community:

- Volunteers, Apprentices, Journeyman and Chief Executive Administrator held a Job Fair held in April at the Prosumer Action Center.
- Fourteen volunteers provided 1182.25 hours of service
- All Journeymen, Apprentices and Volunteers, designed and worked on outreach possibilities

Public education on and increased awareness of mental illness:

- Met with DARS to talk about peer services and what works for recovery.

- Provided meeting space for Center for Health Care Services for Medical Directors Meeting.
- Provided meeting space for Center for Health Care Services Clinic Staff.
- Held Job Fair
- Provided meeting space for Recovery 101
- Provided meeting space for the Progressive Women's Group

Protection of consumer rights and self-help, or peer support:

- All services provided in March were provided through peer support and mentoring.

A total of 216 services were provided over the Second Quarter of 2011. Of those, 119 were unduplicated services for FY'11.