



## **Prosumer Action Center (COS Grant – FY 2012) Third Quarter Report FY 2012**

This report is for the Third Quarter, fiscal year 2012 for the Prosumer Action Center.

### **Narrative:**

In the Third Quarter for fiscal year 2012, the Prosumer Action Center continues to have a lot of activity. We continue to hold classes daily and our center's computer lab is always available and in use.

Members of the Prosumers participated in the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Advisory group for Disability Rights Texas, The ViaHope Advisory Group, the State Local Area Planning Advisory Committee (LANAC), the Bexar County Behavioral Health Planning and Network Advisory Committee (BHPNAC) and the Restraint and Seclusion Task Force.

Additionally, Prosumers have taken the leadership position for the Bexar County Consumer Family Conference and the Texas Catalyst for Empowerment Leadership Symposium. The Consumer Family Conference has used the Prosumer Center for planning meetings. A Prosumer is heading the Program Committee also. The event will be held October 5, 2012.

The Prosumers had 4 members participate in the Consumer Operated Service Providers Face-to-Face Conference. One of the Project Coordinators is attended classes for Power and Contribution.

Prosumers spoke at the University of Texas Health Science Center School Of Nursing at San Antonio and also participated in the Texas Health Science Center School Of Nursing at San Antonio Center for Women and Children research department. This is also an outreach opportunity.

Beginning in late April, six Prosumers began training via Skype to learn stand-up comedy from David Granier who founded Stand Up For Mental Health. He is a professional comic, a counselor, as well as a consumer. We performed at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin for the Texas Council of Community Centers Conference. An organizer of the event wrote in part:

Prosumers performance was absolutely amazing!!! I had the opportunity to meet them during the dress rehearsal the night before and they were so much fun and so impressive.

To stand before over 600 people after only six weeks of practice...let's just say that the standing ovation they received was more than well-deserved.

Thank you so much for collaborating with us on this project. It was a rousing success!

The purpose of this show was not just to entertain, but to foster understanding between consumers and other folks, to reduce the stigma of mental illness, and show others that recovery is possible. Several attendees asked where our group was going to perform next, thinking we were professionals. One commented on how her views of people with a diagnosis could make fun of what formerly stopped them in life and how it changed her perception of those with lived experience.

The Center for Health Care Services and Prosumers completed a grant application for \$100,000 from Impact San Antonio to begin the process of starting a Crisis Peer Respite for San Antonio. Mr. Evans has promised support and salary for this endeavor.

Our first major fundraising event took place May 4, 2012 at Morgan's Wonderland from 5-8 pm. We honored Senator Leticia Van de Putte in a Dinner Gala, silent auction as well as having items for sale. Food Bank Catering prepared and served the dinner. Other Texas legislators were in attendance, as was the Director of the CHCS.

People interested in going to the World Congress on Mental Health in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2013 have begun fundraisers to raise money to go. Our first was a Bowl-a-Thon on March 3 and we raised over \$1,000. We have scheduled a second Bowl-a-Thon on September 15, 2012. We also had a Chick-fil-A fundraiser on May 16 from 5-8. People wishing to support the Prosumers just needed to purchase food from Chick-fil-A on SE Military Dr. between 5 and 8 p.m., present the fundraiser coupon and Prosumers received a percentage of the food sold.

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. One of the Project Coordinators is taking the lead on this. This Symposium has had no money attached, yet we have secured a location in Houston. Prosumers will support raising money for this event as well as looking for sponsors for this event.

We continue to grow and expand. We have secured Dr. Paul Warner to conduct a drumming class for an upcoming Prosumer Meeting. Our March meeting was on *Making a Difference*. Disability Rights Texas spoke to our group in April. Our May topic was *How to Talk to Public Officials*. We hope to make drumming a part of the Prosumer Action Center as well as Focus for Life as a ten series study group. June's Meeting was on *Going Back to Work*. July's Prosumer Meeting will be on *Finding Your Voice through Art*.

Focus for Life is scheduled for San Antonio June 26-28, 2012 and will be held at the Action Center, as well as the Intentional Peer Support training to be held August 27-31, 2012.

We have continued working with Dr. Jodi Gonzales on a NIMH grant where Prosumers serve as both the intervention and the control group. As this is a controlled study, it will give us the basis for being evidence-based.

We continue to publicize community and mental health related events both in our newsletters and in the Center. Some recent postings were free health screenings and mammograms, free legal services for seniors, an adult mental health awareness poetry contest, and the like. We also post job openings when notified.

We continue to work on our 501(c)(3), and we have all the paperwork completed. Texas Association of Non Profits is working with us to have this happen. We have paid them for helping us do this. They have also come out and worked with us to become a tighter, cohesive group.

A total of 142 services were provided over the third Quarter of 2012. Of those, 42 were unduplicated services for FY'12.