



TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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<http://sites.utexas.edu/mental-health-institute/>

January 18, 2015

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
3001 Lake Austin Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78703-4200

RE: Letter of Support and Cooperation: Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants

The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH) wishes to support Community Healthcore's application for the Hogg Foundation's Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants. TIEMH works to enhance the use of effective practices throughout the state, enhance the capacity of the mental health workforce, empower communities to develop resilience and recovery-oriented systems, and evaluate state and local efforts to improve service systems for adults, youth, and children facing mental health challenges. We are happy to support Community Healthcore with technical assistance as the agency develops processes and procedures within a learning community that facilitates collegial partnerships between peers and expert practitioners leading to innovation in practices, research, and policy anchored in recovery and resilience.

Since 2005, TIEMH has evaluated a number of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) mental health transformation initiatives, including the Recovery Institute implemented by Via Hope. Inman White, Harrison Kinney, and Community Healthcore staff have been very engaged in recovery initiatives and have worked diligently to develop an organizational recovery culture that supports people to actualize their dreams. We have seen the inclusion of peer specialists and people in recovery in their initiatives and we have seen the use of data to continuously improve their efforts. The peer and expert practitioner learning community proposed is unique and addresses an identified gap, including peers in evaluation of mental health service systems and in the development of new programs and services that support an individual's recovery.

Through evaluation of recovery initiatives in Texas, particularly peer specialist integration and person centered care, TIEMH has collected data and evaluated recovery measures, systems that support recovery, and implementation processes. We believe our work aligns with the goals of the learning community proposed by Community Healthcore and that we can support their planning process. I reiterate our support of Community Healthcore's proposal and the important work that will result from the Hogg Foundation's Advancing Recovery in Texas planning grants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Stevens Manser".

Stacey Stevens Manser
Research Scientist and Co-Director
Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, Center for Social Work Research

Harrison Kinney

From: Rowe, Michael <michael.rowe@yale.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Harrison Kinney; Manser, Stacey S (stacey.manser@austin.utexas.edu)
Subject: RE: collegial partnership between peers and expert practitioners

Hi Harrison,

Put us down for helping with this, which sounds very good. A couple of thoughts—one has to be with having a person or people who are well placed to advance the cause. Two examples—when we started the homeless outreach team in the 1990s in New Haven, such work was not highly regarded in the mental health center and certainly was not something a clinician with ambitions would want to be caught in. We hired as clinical director of the outreach team a well-regarded and well-established “office-based” clinician who was interested in the work. This accomplished two important things. One was instant credibility for the work, i.e. “If Debbie Fisk is willing to do it, it can’t be all bad.” Second, she knew how to navigate the system, make connections, get agreements, so that when we were ready to refer homeless clients whom clinicians we’re really interested in working with, she got us in the door. And things changed.

When we wanted to really take a leading role with peer work, we hired Chyrell Bellamy, a psychologist and social worker, i.e. and academic and researcher, who is also a self-disclosed person with lived experience of behavioral health problems, who could straddle the academic-advocacy-person-in-recovery worlds. It changed everything.

This person or persons may or may not be available to you, but an alternative is putting a peer in a leadership position with real authority.

Top down support is important, too. You have that. It’s not enough, but it helps. And I think reaching out to people and places like Stacey and the Institute, and PRCH, is both the right thing to do and will demonstrate to the Hogg Foundation that you can make those connections and are serious about this as a major direction for the agency.

That said, integrating peer into the work, integrating peer and recovery work takes time. I do think that having a partnership with UT is important, and brings new resources to bear on the work. Along these lines and in terms of the learning community approach, we learned from the outreach work that being part of “something bigger” makes a difference to people doing the work at the street level. The foundation’s visibility, agency leadership support, other local and state support, commitment from the state that it is looking at your work as a pilot for the state, these kinds of things can be helpful too. And finding clinical staff who are interested in and can champion the work at the direct care level.

I’ll be out of town for a few days and may not have a lot of online access. My cell is 2038154077 and I’ll have e-mail. Good luck with the proposal! Cheers, Michael

From: Harrison Kinney [mailto:Harrison.Kinney@CommunityHealthcore.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2015 10:13 AM
To: Manser, Stacey S (stacey.manser@austin.utexas.edu); Rowe, Michael
Subject: collegial partnership between peers and expert practitioners

Hi Michael and Stacey,

I have a request and will try to be succinct:



Department of Psychiatry

January 27, 2015

**The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
3001 Lake Austin Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78703-4200**

RE: Letter of Support- Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Community Healthcore's application under the Hogg Foundation's Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants. The Dream Center, managed by persons with lived experience, will be a place of recovery and hope that will expand the scope and breadth of recovery opportunities for adults with serious mental illness through innovation in practice, policy and research. The Dream Center will provide an excellent home for recovery services, research opportunities aimed at testing innovative practices under controlled conditions, funding opportunities and policy development.

I learned about Community Healthcore a couple of years ago, when Harrison Kinney reached out to me for some guidance on developing a letter of intent application for the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). I was honored to be a part of their planning team in that Community HealthCore and Harrison Kinney truly believe in the value of recovery oriented services and strive to develop opportunities that would bring this culture to life. The Dream Center would do this.

I have seen first-hand the value of providing professional opportunities for people with lived experience. As a mental health services researcher and faculty member of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of New Mexico, I have employed, trained and supervised people in recovery from serious mental illness. The positions have included peer-support workers and peer evaluators. While employment opportunities for persons with lived experience benefit them financially, more importantly it helps promote their recovery and well-being. Also, by seeing people in recovery employed, persons in their beginning stages of their illness are given hope and motivation to achieve recovery themselves.

I have no doubt that Community Healthcore will be able to achieve the goals outlined in their proposal. Through their commitment to recovery oriented services, which includes the development of the Dream Center that promotes the strengths and resilience of individuals with serious mental illness, Community Healthcore will make huge strides in helping people with serious mental illness achieve improved health, wellness and quality of life. I look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with such leaders in recovery oriented services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette S. Crisanti".

**Annette S. Crisanti, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Division of Community Behavioral Health
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
School of Medicine, University of New Mexico
505-850-7430 (phone) 505-272-1876 (fax)**



Jeffrey Walter, Board Chair
Linda Rosenberq, MSW, President and CEO

January 20, 2015

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
3001 Lake Austin Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78703-4200

RE: Letter of Support: Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants

The National Council for Behavioral Health wishes to offer its support to Community Healthcore's application under the Hogg Foundation's Advancing Recovery in Texas (ART) Initiative Planning Grants.

I have had the pleasure and privilege to work with Community Healthcore over the last several years. Our first encounter was through their participation in the National Council's 2013 – 2014 Trauma-Informed Care Learning Community. They quickly rose to the top of their cohort. They were elevated because of the intention and thoughtfulness they demonstrated over the year we worked together. They used this opportunity to fully assess the organization and worked diligently to make significant practice change through a focused performance monitoring process.

What stood out for me, as the leader of this initiative was their focus on recovery, resilience; that peers and those receiving services were the voice that was heard. They served as an example to all of our other teams that the partnership between traditional providers and peers is not only possible but that it is the future of all integrated behavioral health services, leading to recovery, resilience and whole health.

I also had the opportunity to spend two days with Community Healthcore staff providing training on trauma and trauma-informed approaches. I frequently say, "If it is not trauma-informed, it is not recovery oriented. If it is not recovery oriented, it cannot be trauma-informed. The leadership, staff and consumers have an enthusiasm about their work together that proves the power of partnership and that recovery is the expectation, not an isolated event.

I have been working in the behavioral health world for almost thirty years and a great part of that time was as a statewide peer coordinator for wellness and recovery. I was part of the State of Maryland's Transformation work and had the opportunity to partner with Texas to bring trauma-informed peer support as well as Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP®) to both states. My role at the National Council beyond my work in trauma-informed approaches has been to bring the voice of recovery and resilience to primary care, mental health and addictions.

Community Healthcore is perfectly poised to meet the ART initiative and I wholeheartedly endorse and support their application and proposal.

Very sincerely,

Cheryl S. Sharp, MSW, ALWF
Senior Advisor for Trauma-Informed Care



PROSUMERS INTERNATIONAL

PO Box 120394
San Antonio, TX 78212
Main Phone Number: 210-399-8734
Janet Paleo or Anna Gray Phone number: 210-535-5456

January 26, 2015

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
3001 Lake Austin Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78703-4200

RE: Letter of Support- Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants

Prosumers International wishes to support Community Healthcore's application under the Hogg Foundation's Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants. Prosumers is a Consumer Operated Service Provider (COSP) whose mission is to bring recovery to those with lived experience by sharing our experiences and learning the skills of how to live life with a diagnosis. A Prosumer is someone who is proactive in their recovery and gives back to the community.

I have visited Community Healthcore in my role as the Director of Recovery Based Services with Texas Council of Community Centers. Anna Gray, with Prosumers and the Texas Catalyst for Empowerment accompanied me. We were impressed the work and the scope of work to bring recovery to consumers in the area. We could see a real dedication to have recovery be present at their Center. While we were there, the Executive Director came to take part of the event. To have this level of support is a good sign that collaboration between the consumers and professionals is on the right path.

Community Healthcore has been working diligently over time to develop a recovery culture to support people as they build their lives and actualize their dreams. They have agreed to work with the Texas Council of Community Centers to help develop a post conference training day for the peer specialists working at the Community Centers. Additionally, they have brought in multiple speakers and trainings to help develop that culture of recovery.

Prosumers have a cutting edge approach to recovery utilizing the Salutogenic principals:

- Having control in your life
- The ability to meet the challenges in life
- Having a purpose in life.

When consumers can develop these three areas of their life, they become resilient. This has been studied by the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio by the School of Nursing showing that Prosumers make a statistically significant difference in the lives of people. From this, the three day Focus for Life was developed. Currently we are in a National Institute of Mental Health grant further testing this model of treatment using peer to peer methods.

The Focus for Life® curriculum was developed and designed to meet the need to offer a path to recovery and wellness based on the components of Salutogenesis (Antonovsky, 1996), where the training focuses on building personal strengths and developing wellness resulting in resiliency. Salutogenesis focuses on factors that support human health, well-being, and the origin of health rather than the origin of illness and disease.

Prosumers and Texas Council of Community Centers wholeheartedly support Community Healthcore in this project and will look to collaborate with them throughout the project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Janet Paleo
Founder Prosumers International



ANNA K. JACKSON, MSSW · ALPINISTA CONSULTING

January 31, 2015

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
3001 Lake Austin Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78703-4200

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Community Healthcore's application under the Hogg Foundation's Advancing Recovery in Texas Initiative Planning Grants. I have worked with Community Healthcore on recovery-oriented transformation efforts since fall of 2013. The involvement and leadership of people in recovery is the hallmark of a recovery oriented system, and Community Healthcore has made substantial progress promoting this orientation over the last several years. The support of creative leadership and activated, visionary people in recovery has been the source of this forward movement. Their involvement in the East Texas Behavioral Health Network and other recovery-oriented initiatives continues to help propel them forward and make the area they serve a place where people with lived experience can pursue meaningful lives of their choosing. Our team worked with the Community Healthcore in the Recovery Institute Leadership Academy, a more introductory program for organizations hoping to change their organizational culture to one that embraces and promotes recovery, for only a couple short months before realizing that—particularly with respect to understanding the role of people with lived experience and system transformation—they had a very sophisticated and well-developed team. They soon moved into the Peer Specialist Integration Project, of which they are still a part and continue to shape with the other teams. If awarded this planning grant, The Dream Center would be the first Texas-based organization of its kind—peer run, in strategic and direct partnership with other professionals, focused on the development, testing, and evaluation of person-centered and recovery-oriented services. It would be an exciting developmental opportunity for Texas, has the potential to make national impact, and would surely be an invaluable resource for the people served in its service area. Should there be a need for my consultative support for this project, I would happily work with Community Healthcore's team to help make The Dream Center a reality.

Between 2009 and 2014, I was employed by Via Hope training and consultation center. Most recently, I served as Deputy Director and now operate as their primary strategic development consultant. Much of my work promoting transformation started in 2011, when I coordinated the Via Hope Recovery-Focused Learning Community and started the Consumer Operate Service Provider Institute. I was the primary architect and Director of the Via Hope Recovery Institute, which launched in 2012 and is comprised of the Person Centered Recovery Planning Implementation Project, Peer Specialist Integration Project, Leadership Academy, and numerous other projects, including Recovery Reads. In 2013, I wrote the *Peer Specialist Integration Workbook* with national and Texas-based collaborators. I currently work with staff, executive leadership, and the board on the center's strategic development.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions related to this letter and my support of Community Healthcore's proposal. I look forward to hearing how all the projects unfold.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Jackson".

Anna Jackson