Shasta County Health & Human Services Agency
Mental Health Services Act

From Volunteering to Employment -
the MHSA Volunteer Program
A Program is Born

- Workforce Education and Training
- Community Stakeholder Process - Summer 2009
- Program Approval - November 2009
MHSA Volunteer Program for Individuals with Lived Experience

- Enhance the capacity of the public mental health system in Shasta County by providing services and supports to individuals with serious mental illness by collaborating with and accessing the use of natural community supports: community members with lived experience and an interest in volunteering to serve.

- Provide training and workforce involvement to individuals with lived experience who may desire an entry-level introduction into the public mental health system and explore their interest and suitability.
Program Objective

Create a pathway to address workforce deficits regarding the need to increase the capacity of the public mental health workforce with meaningful roles for individuals with lived experience while promoting wellness, recovery, and resilience.
Program Goals

- Create volunteer opportunities by establishing a centralized and coordinated volunteer program.
- Develop necessary training, policies, and processes for successful implementation.
- Provide resources for supervision and support of volunteers.
- Provide training for supervisors and volunteers.
- Establish and maintain necessary records and data.
- Build capacity to 25 individuals.
- Develop and coordinate a volunteer mentor/buddy system.
- Implement a system of benefits-coordination services for volunteers.
Pilot Project Design

- Staffing
- Navigators
- Cohorts
- Training
- Curriculum
Trial by Fire

- Working within county policies and procedures.
- Developing HHSA policies and procedures.
- Application process.
- Advertising.
- Orientation and training.
- December 2012.
Lessons Learned

- What went well.
- Areas for improvement.
- Ideas for the future.
Moving Forward - the Tale of Two Tracks

- Becoming a volunteer for the sake of volunteering.
- Participating in the career pathway opportunity.
In their Own Words!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vU-1bpz1HLC
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