



CAG

Florida Statewide Consumer Advisory Group

Working together, building a successful tomorrow
for positive individuals today.



Florida Statewide Consumer Advisory Group (CAG)

The CAG is composed of up to 20 consumers selected through an application process and reflective of the profile of the epidemic in Florida. Applicants must be or have been involved with agencies' CAGs or other HIV-related community-based groups. Members are appointed for a period of two years and may reapply for subsequent terms.

MISSION STATEMENT

The CAG exists to provide a mechanism in which consumers have meaningful input into the development of policies and programs to address their needs with and under the auspices of the Department of Health and the HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Program.

Goals

1. Provide input on the quality, accessibility and function of existing and proposed HIV-related care and prevention services
2. Identify and provide input on gaps in HIV-related services and barriers to care
3. Recommend new programs and changes to existing programs
4. Provide consumer input to the DOH, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Program and community-based providers regarding the development and implementation of programs and policies
5. Increase consumer participation on community-based agency Boards of Directors and local planning bodies
6. Increase the number of persons at risk who know their status
7. Decrease the number of new HIV infections
8. Improve the health and quality of life for those who are living with and at high risk of HIV

Benefits to Consumers and Providers

As an organization of consumers, the CAG is positioned to assess the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of funded services. The relationship between consumers and service providers creates an environment that fosters the following benefits to both consumers and the agencies or other community groups they advise:

1. Consumer self-determination promotes self-management and independence through increased knowledge, the fellowship and support of other consumers, and creation of an environment with decreased stigma and isolation
2. Leadership skills and a sense of empowerment among consumers aid in their roles as advisors to agency CAG's, local service providers and each other
3. Build and maintain partnerships in wellness with consumers and providers in improving service quality, type of service, program evaluation and focus provider programmatic policies on consumer needs and concerns
4. Create networking opportunities to increase consumer knowledge and provider sensitivity to consumer needs