The Fairfield Mental Health Consumer Group

*We Fight Stigma, Provide Self-Help Resources & Support our Peers in Recovery and Wellness*

The Fairfield Mental Health Consumer Group (FMHCG) is located at the Center of Hope, 1663 E. Main St. in Lancaster, Ohio.

FMHCG has been an independent consumer organization for the past 13 years. We are mental health consumers who believe that we can help one another fight the stigma of having mental illness. We feel strongly that it is important for all consumers to have a voice in services that are offered to us.

We are an affiliate organization to the statewide consumer organization, Ohio Empowerment Coalition. We have traditionally also partnered with the local NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) and statewide NAMI-OHIO.

We are funded in part by the ADAMH Board of Fairfield County and are also dependent upon donations and membership dues.

We are a non-profit 501c3 and are governed by a board of directors comprised of 80% consumers in recovery, two community agency representatives, and the ADAMH Board Consumer and Family Advocate (non-voting). We employ one part-time Administrative Assistant who is the payee for 21 consumers needing help in managing their funds, one part-time bookkeeper and two part-time house managers to ensure that the Center of Hope has sufficient staff to provide a safe, structured and well-organized daily experience for consumer participants.

**Our Mission**
Based in Fairfield County, the Fairfield Mental Health Consumer Group provides self-help resources, supporting our peers in recovery and wellness, and advocating to reduce mental health stigma.

**Our Vision**
To be a self-supporting, integral part of the mental health delivery system in Fairfield County, Ohio. We are the vehicle from which consumers of mental health services may continue to develop a consumer directed system of recovery. We offer consumers the choice to be active in self-help, advocacy, education, employment and personal treatment planning issues. We believe that consumer operated services are the heart of empowerment and embody the principles of choice and recovery, allowing each individual the opportunity to be actively involved in the community and in support of one another.

**Things you can do to fight stigma and promote recovery:**

- Recognize that recovery is possible. The notion that once a person is diagnosed with a mental illness he or she is “stuck for life” is false.
- Discourage use of labeling and negative language such as “crazy.”
- Encourage education. Become educated yourself and educate others.
- Participate in consumer operated activities.
- Join the Fairfield Mental Health Consumer Group and let your voice be heard.

For more information, call 740-654-0477.