

Handout 2-7

Fairweather Lodge

Evidenced Based Practice: The Fairweather Lodge Model is based in research and is considered to be an evidenced based practice for recovery for persons with mental illness. Generally speaking, the model consists of shared housing and shared employment for persons with mental illness. Fidelity standards have been developed and are utilized to certify adherence to certain principles and practices that are the foundation of the model. The fidelity standards are structured within four life domains; housing employment, social and autonomy. Eight principles and sixteen practices are included in the fidelity standards. Adherence with the standards results in specific program outcomes and client satisfaction. Program outcomes include average weekly earnings and average hours worked, number of hours of staff involvement, social interaction, medication compliance and psychiatric stability.

Housing: Lodges are affordable alternatives to rooming houses or efficiency apartments, Community Residential Rehabilitation programs and Personal Care Homes. Lodges are spacious, well decorated and homey, with private bedrooms. The Fairweather Lodge model is a very cost-effective permanent supportive housing model since rent; utilities, groceries and even transportation are shared by the five to eight residents.

Employment: With regard to employment, the Fairweather lodge Model is operated as a consumer run business with the lodge members making decisions with regard to every aspect of the business operation. Some lodge members may also choose to work outside the lodge business in other competitive employment but still support the efforts of the lodge business. In addition, lodge members share in the responsibility of the execution of the business activity. Since mental illness is a chronic condition that means that often times, lodge members assume the work of another lodge member who is experiencing mental health problems to the degree that they can not work. Most importantly, the lodge member does not lose his/her job as a result of his/her mental health condition.

In summary:

A lodge offers a **long-term affordable** permanent housing option for adults with mental illness. Lodges are quality homes in residential communities close to shopping and public transportation.

Lodge life is based upon **interdependency**. Members are active men and women sharing a common bond of companionship and responsibility. Lodges are member-managed. Staff serve as teachers, coaches and advisors to the lodge and its members, and are available in emergencies, but on-site staffing in permanent lodges is non-existent with staff members visiting the lodges several times a week on an as needed basis. The lodges are **self-governed**.

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Since lodge membership guarantees **access to employment**, all members are able to contribute financially which provides a comfortable standard of living and a rich quality of life. Transportation is available to each lodge for routine activities such as shopping, doctor appointments and employment.

The Fairweather Lodge Model is a **way out of poverty** and offers **hope and financial security** for its members. Currently there are 17 lodges in multiple counties in Pennsylvania and more lodges in development.

For More Information:

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