



The Ohio Empowerment Coalition

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Ohio Empowerment Coalition for Mental Health Recovery Announces Executive Director

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Empowerment Coalition, an organization formed in 2009 to serve as a leader in statewide advocacy for mental health recovery, led by mental health consumer peers, announces its first executive director, Jack Cameron. Cameron comes to the position most recently from the executive director role at Gathering Hope House, a consumer-operated service agency in Lorain, Ohio, where he served the recovery community for the past six years.

Cameron and the Board members will help build the Ohio Empowerment Coalition (OEC) as it transforms from a fledgling non-profit to a strong, vital voice for peers and family members who live and work with mental illness every day. According to the National Institute for Mental Health, one of every four adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, which accounts for roughly 15 percent of the total health care burden of disease in the U.S.

The OEC is consumer-run and consists of members statewide united to support and give voice to persons and groups working to transform systems, promote wellness, facilitate mental health recovery and build resiliency. The Coalition is seeking to reflect and encourage the valuable ethnic and geographical diversity of all persons in Ohio committed to mental health recovery. To support statewide representation, OEC is holding their first annual conference, “Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future,” scheduled for August 13-14 in Columbus.

As the new OEC Executive Director, Cameron states that he is excited “to be a part of re-establishing the kind of statewide coalition that is responsive to consumers and fights for the urgent issues that confront our peers across the state, especially those in underserved areas.” The current organization took the place of the now defunct Ohio Advocates for Mental Health.

With 23 years of experience in leadership of non-profit organizations, including two peer-run centers in Canton and Lorain, Cameron brings the necessary skills in developing partnerships, funding sustainability, management, and strategic planning to ensure that OEC becomes a thriving independent voice for the mental health community. He has a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Akron and a B.A. in Psychology from Kent State University.

To learn more about the Ohio Empowerment Coalition, call the offices at 614-310-8054, toll-free at 1-877-643-6701 or email ohioempowermentcoalition@gmail.com

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