

## Office of Community Voices and Empowerment advisory committee FAQ

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### What is the office of community voices and empowerment?

The Health Care Authority's (HCA) Office of Community Voices and Empowerment (OCVE) exists to amplify the leadership, wisdom, and lived expertise of communities, especially those who have been historically silenced, excluded, or underserved by systems that impact their daily lives.

Visit the [Office of Community Voices and Empowerment webpage](#).

### Who is on the advisory committee?

The work of OCVE is guided by a statewide advisory committee made up of individuals, family members, and caregivers who identify as having lived or living expertise within the Washington State behavioral health system.

### How we work:

- Centering Community Leadership
  - We follow the lead of communities. Their lived experience, insight, and direction shape our priorities and drive our efforts.
- Building Power, Not Dependency
  - We support communities with resources, tools, and platforms that strengthen their ability to organize, influence, and create lasting change on their own terms.
- Lifting Every Voice
  - We actively engage people whose voices have been left out—Black, Brown, Indigenous, immigrant, disabled, LGBTQ+ individuals, youth, elders, and others disproportionately impacted by our systems.
- Transforming Systems
  - We work with communities to challenge practices that create inequity and co-create solutions rooted in justice, healing, and accountability.
- Practicing Shared Decision-Making
  - We partner with communities as equals, ensuring shared ownership in decision-making, strategy, and solutions.
- We measure our success not by what we do for communities, but by what communities lead, shape, and accomplish with our support.
  - We envision a future where every community has the power, influence, and access to drive change and where their voices guide decisions at every level

### When do we meet?

The committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 12-1:30p

### Will I be compensated?

Committee members do qualify for a stipend if they meet eligibility requirements which are low income, lived experience, and not otherwise being compensated for their participation.

### Where do I go with questions?

If you have further questions, please reach out to [Dakota Steel](#).