

Mentoring Project Guidelines and Instructions  
November 2006

**Our mission is to promote recovery, quality of life, advocacy, education, mutual support, peer-directed services, and participation in mental health policy design for consumers throughout the state of Florida.**

The four project areas below represent topic areas for Florida Peer Network's First Annual Leadership Institute graduates to choose from. Over the next 10 months, the Mentoring Project will provide unique leadership development opportunities for everyone involved; Leadership Institute graduates as well as FPN leaders who have volunteered to serve as mentors. In addition, the Board of Directors and Executive Director will assist throughout the Project.

**1. Expand Peer Supports & Consumer Operated Services-**

Work in this area represents the primary mission of the Florida Peer Network. In some areas of our state, there are no peer support groups and no consumer operated services, such as drop in centers. There is always a need to expand and sustain peer support groups. Some areas of the state have consumer-operated warmlines, a telephone support alternative. Leadership Institute graduates choosing this area will work with Network leaders, along with partner peer organizations to start peer support groups; grow consumer-run drop in centers; start and expand peer warm lines, etc.

**2. Participate in Florida Peer Network Governance Committees-**

Work in this area provides an opportunity for Leadership Institute graduates to participate in the governance of the Florida Peer Network. The work of various Standing and Ad Hoc Committees and workgroups (Policy; Diverse Communities; Membership Development; State Conference Planning; Outreach; Newsletter; etc.), is important to accomplish our mission. Committees have specific goals and purposes. Standing committees are permanently established; ad hoc committees are established by the Board of Directors for specific purposes, and disbanded once their work is done. Committees are led by a chair, an FPN member with experience & knowledge of governance procedures.

Brief descriptions of FPN Committees & Workgroups are below.

- a. **Policy Committee-** Responsible for reviewing major public policy issues which might affect FPN members (e.g.- Medicaid reform; Managed Care; Baker Act changes; Housing; legislative items). The Policy Committee may convene workgroups or taskforces around specific issues to make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding Florida Peer Network Public Policy Platform. Committee members should be interested in policy matters. Expect to do quite a bit of reading. Internet access is almost a must.

As a Leadership Institute graduate, you might be interested in a particular Policy area, such as Medicaid reform or employment. Participation in a topic-specific policy workgroup might be a way for you to get involved in policy, if membership in a committee is too much of a time commitment.

- b. **Membership Development workgroup-** Responsible for developing and implementing a statewide membership growth plan. This workgroup needs to have people from different areas of the state; rural areas, urban areas, and geographically diverse areas. This workgroup will work closely with the
- c. **Diverse Communities workgroup-** Responsible for developing and implementing a statewide plan to reach out to consumers in the many diverse communities in Florida. Diversity is broadly defined, including people from many ethnic cultures; gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people; and people from rural vs. urban communities. The Florida Peer Network is aware of the need to have our membership be more diverse, and understands the importance of diversity in our leadership.

Both the Membership Development and Diverse Communities workgroups will work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors. Leadership Institute graduates interested in either of these workgroups should expect to participate in regularly monthly workgroup toll-free teleconferences. In addition, each workgroup will have specific tasks and goals. The chair of each workgroup may ask you to help with some assignments.

- d. **Conference Planning Committee-** Responsible for planning major events like the First Annual Leadership Institute. The next event the committee will plan is the Statewide Consumer Conference. While this conference has not been funded, the Network expects to gather support from various sources in order to host a statewide consumer conference sometime in early 2007.

Leadership Institute graduates choosing this area should expect to dedicate at least 2 hours/week to this committee. Conference and event planning is a very detailed, very tedious process. It requires good attention to detail, and good organizational skills. Much of the work will be done via toll-free teleconference. The committee chair will be asked to provide regular written reports to the Board of Directors.

- e. **Newsletter workgroup-** Responsible for the timely production of the Florida Peer Network newsletter. Workgroup members might be ‘reporters’, or may help distribute newsletters in their communities. The Network has yet to produce our newsletter on a regular basis, and will depend on this workgroup to make this happen. No experience required, just a sincere desire to help with the newsletter. This is the Network’s primary way to communicate with our members!

3. **Education and Public Awareness Campaign-** This area is also a major part of the Network's mission; education. Leadership Institute graduates choosing this area will be able to participate in one of the following projects.
  - a. Partner with NAMI FL Consumer Council to use In Our Own Voice as an anti-stigma education tool;
  - b. Mary Ellen Copeland's Wellness Education (W.R.A.P.);
  - c. Trained as Peer Educators using the Self-Determination series (University Illinois at Chicago)

The Network continues to work with other consumer organizations and consumer leaders throughout the state on these and other projects. We have scheduled toll-free teleconferences in early December to provide information about each of the projects above. Please RSVP to reserve your line.

4. **Individual Special Projects-** Leadership Institute graduates may submit an individual project plan to a panel of FPN Board members and mentors for review. Plans must be consistent with Florida Peer Network's mission, and must have a sponsoring mentor. If you plan to submit a Individual Special Project, please send a narrative describing your project, how it fits with the Florida Peer Network's mission, and why you feel your project is important to the consumer movement in Florida to

Mentoring Project c/o  
Florida Peer Network  
3389 Sheridan Street  
Box 316 Hollywood, FL 33021

Or send via email to  
[info@floridapeernetwork.org](mailto:info@floridapeernetwork.org)

## Timeline

This provides a general overview of the Mentoring Project milestones and benchmarks over the next 10 months.

While the general timeline below provides a framework for the Mentoring Project Due, each Project area will have specific timelines and benchmarks which develop over the next 10 months. For those of you submitting Individual Special Projects, your work plans will include timelines and benchmarks developed with help from your mentor.

November 2006-	Mentoring Project participants select Project areas, return enrollment packets
December 2006-	Informational teleconferences for Education and Public Awareness Campaign Projects scheduled. (NAMI In Our Own Voice; W.R.A.P.; Self-Determination Series) Initial teleconferences scheduled by topic area; Mentors assigned; work plan templates distributed. <i>Happy Holidays to everyone!</i>
January 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconferences
February 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconferences
March 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconference, brief update report from Mentoring Project Participants due
April 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconferences
May 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconferences
June 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconference, brief update report from Mentoring Project Participants due
July 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconferences
August 2007-	Regular scheduled teleconferences
September 2007-	Individual Mentoring Project reports finalized to be included in Summary Report. This Summary Report will be distributed at the Second Annual Leadership Institute and made available via the FPN website.

**Florida Peer Network Mentoring Project Enrollment Form pg. 1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**A.** Please check the Project Area you are choosing.

1. Expand Peer Supports & Consumer Operated Services

2. Participate in Florida Peer Network Governance Committees

3. Education and Public Awareness Campaign

4. Individual Special Projects

**B.** Depending on the Project Area you selected above, please provide more detail about what you'd like to do within your Project Area. For example, if you selected Area 1. Expand Peer Supports & Consumer Operated Services, do you want to start a peer support group? Do you have a specific type of support group in mind, such as a DBSA (Depression-Bipolar Support Alliance) group or a Schizophrenics Anonymous group?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C.** What's the best way to contact you?

phone calls  e-mail  snail mail/letter

**D.** The Mentoring Project will rely heavily on toll-free teleconferences, exchanging email between Mentoring Project participants, and posting updates to the Florida Peer Network website. Will this work for you?

Teleconferences yes no comments \_\_\_\_\_

Emails yes no comments \_\_\_\_\_

FPN website updates yes no comments \_\_\_\_\_

If you have limited or no internet access or no computer, please let us know your situation below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Florida Peer Network Mentoring Project Enrollment Form pg. 2**

**E.** Are you active in any peer support groups or drop in centers? If so, please provide additional information (name of support group; name and address of drop in center, etc.)

Support Group(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Drop In Center \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**F.** How much time per week do you think you'll be able to spend on the Mentoring Project? Remember, this is a voluntary project.

less than 1 hour     1 hour     1-2 hours     2-3 hours     more than 3 hours

**G.** As Leadership Institute graduates, the Florida Peer Network wants to continue to support you as members and peers. We all share the experience of living with psychiatric disabilities, and, for some of us, co-occurring disorders. The Florida Peer Network depends on the time and talent of volunteers like you. Mutual support is an important part of recovery. Do you think it would be helpful if the Network provided a monthly support group call for the Mentoring Project participants?

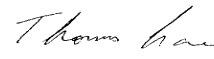
yes             no

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing this enrollment packet. As the graduates of the Florida Peer Network's First Annual Leadership Institute, you are in a unique position to contribute to next year's Institute, and to the years that follow. The work you will be doing will help the Network develop into a stronger organization, better able to represent Florida citizens living with psychiatric disabilities and co-occurring disorders. The Mentoring Project provides leadership development experiences tailored for you, based on your choices and interests. Together, we all win.

There has never been a more important time for an organization like the Florida Peer Network to be in place. There is plenty of work to be done, at many levels, and we need new leaders like you. Along with our partner organizations like the NAMI Florida Consumer Council, Florida Depression-Bipolar Support Alliance, and the many consumer-operated drop-in centers throughout the state, the Network will continue our mission. We look forward to working with you in the coming months, and hope your experience will be educational, enjoyable, and another path on your journey of recovery.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

  
Thomas Lane, President