

Clubhouse Characteristics: Results from an International Survey of Clubhouses

Authors/Presenters:

Colleen McKay, M.A., C.A.G.S.
Research Instructor
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Program for Clubhouse Research
Center for Mental Health Services Research
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, Massachusetts
Colleen.McKay@umassmed.edu

The clubhouse model of psychiatric rehabilitation originated at Fountain House in 1948 and there has been systematic dissemination of the clubhouse model since 1977. Today, over 328 clubhouses affiliated with the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) are located in 27 countries and 32 states. These clubhouse programs have served approximately 55,000 individuals, over 26,000 in the United States alone.

The International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) was established in 1994 as a response to the rapid development of clubhouses worldwide. The ICCD supports and coordinates the development and training of clubhouses, sponsors regional and international conferences, maintains a set of *International Standards for Clubhouse Programs* (Clubhouse Standards), has an international certification process, and a fidelity instrument.

ICCD clubhouses are founded on the realization that recovery from serious mental illness involves the whole person in a vital and culturally sensitive community (ICCD, 2006). Clubhouses offer a wide range of services including employment and vocational supports, education, housing, outreach, advocacy, assistance with accessing health care, substance abuse services, and social supports. Clubhouse participants are referred to as members and membership is available for life. Each clubhouse is organized in such a way that it cannot work without member assistance. Members are encouraged to contribute in the operation of the clubhouse working side-by-side with staff in a rehabilitative environment, the *Work-ordered Day*. The clubhouse model has been the subject of an active, international dissemination effort, as well as substantial efforts to standardize the model, including the development of standards, an international training effort, fidelity assessments, and an international certification process.

This presentation will include results from International Surveys of Clubhouses conducted by the ICCD and the Program for Clubhouse Research located at the Center for Mental Health Services Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School to provide information regarding clubhouse performance and characteristics in a variety of areas. This presentation provides a unique glimpse into the dissemination of the model with results from clubhouse programs across the United States and the world. Clubhouse Directors complete clubhouse surveys designed to obtain information concerning organizational characteristics, the ways in which clubhouse programs provide opportunities for their members, as well as individual outcomes for members utilizing clubhouse services and supports. Areas addressed in the survey include funding, governance and administration, staffing and staff credentials, program structure, clubhouse memberships and membership demographics, participation in training and/or research activities, and a variety of services provided by ICCD clubhouses including employment and housing. The presentation will provide evidence of similarities and differences between ICCD certified and non-certified clubhouses, clubhouses located in and out of the United States, as well as common characteristics of clubhouses internationally.

Results from this survey help to provide a clearer picture of contemporary clubhouse practices and follow the development of the clubhouse movement as it continues to expand. The information generated from this survey and prior surveys allows the ICCD to dispel misconceptions about the clubhouse model and monitor how clubhouses accommodate service system changes and develop over time. Survey results help define key

performance variables, allow feedback for the evolution of the Standards for Clubhouse Programs, and provide an accurate description of ICCD Clubhouses to existing and/or potential Mental Health Authorities, funding sources, and other constituencies.