

COMMUNITY COUNSELLING AND RESOURCE CENTRE

SECTION: Advocacy	ADOPTED: Sept. 2008
TOPIC: ANTI-POVERTY AND ADVOCACY WORK	NUMBER: AV-A01

Policy

All CCRC work will be guided by an understanding of the systemic factors causing poverty and a commitment to assist clients to overcome systemic factors causing poverty.

Principles

CCRC's anti-poverty and advocacy work will be guided by its vision, *to help people strengthen their lives and promote community well-being*, and by its values which include a commitment to *addressing issues related to poverty and social justice that affect our clients*.

CCRC has a strong and effective voice with influencers and decision makers and has credibility in effecting change by garnering attention at multiple levels.

CCRC has a unique voice based on the issues we are aware of through our direct work with clients and the community.

CCRC is committed to working in partnership with others addressing similar issues.

Procedures

Approaches to Anti- Poverty and Advocacy Work

Anti-poverty and advocacy work may be undertaken at all levels of the organization, from one-to-one client work to commenting on government policy.

Decisions made at all levels to undertake advocacy work will take into account awareness of emerging client needs.

Determination of advocacy approaches will take into account awareness of the value and strength of CCRC's unique voice, the change possible and any risks for the client(s) involved and the agency.

CCRC anti-poverty and advocacy work will be done in accordance with CCRC's policies and with appropriate checkpoints for decisions.

CCRC's approach to issues will be non-partisan. By this, it is meant that:

- CCRC does not have a formal alignment with any political parties (it is not a member or donor to any political parties)

- CCRC will work with political parties, candidates and politicians, as appropriate, for the purposes of relationship building and to further the needs of CCRC clients
- CCRC can comment on the policies of any political party
- CCRC's comments will represent our clients and their needs
- CCRC's comments on policies may be done as part of our public education role of raising awareness of community needs and the needs of our clients

Community Counselling and Resource Centre Roles in Anti-Poverty and Advocacy Work

Community Counselling and Resource Centre (CCRC) adopted a strategic agency-wide commitment to Anti-Poverty and Advocacy work. This included the promotion of a culture supporting advocacy work throughout the agency.

The following are guidelines for how people throughout the organization can be involved in advocacy work. These roles will be undertaken in keeping with the agency's vision, mission and values, and with its policy on principles and approaches to advocacy.

Roles in Issues Where CCRC is Proactive

Who	1 Identify issues	2 Prioritize issue to work on / delegate work	3 Research/ develop statement & action plan	4 Recom mend action to Board	5 Approve plan	6 Take action as approved by Board	7 Public statements
Front line staff	√ →Manager		√			√	
Managers/ Management Team	√ →ED		√			√	
Executive Director	√ →Committee		√			√	√
Advocacy Committee	√	√		√		√	
Board	√ →Committee		√		√	√	√

Creation of Culture / Training / Communications Supporting Advocacy

- The Advocacy Committee will discuss topics for training on advocacy issues and skills, will share information on training opportunities with the Board, managers and staff and will recommend staff training opportunities to the Executive Director
- Staff and volunteers will encourage discussion of issues affecting CCRC clients that may require advocacy and of our advocacy work and accomplishments at meetings and the sharing of this information in written communications.
- The Advocacy Committee will prepare a report on CCRC advocacy work to be included in CCRC's annual report.