

**THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE POSTED ELECTRONICALLY ON ALL AU HOSTED WEBSITES AND WILL BE CLEARLY POSTED FOR PARTICIPANTS IN ALL AU LOCATIONS. THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE REFERENCED WITH ALL AU PROVIDED SERVICES.**

## **INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT**

Advocacy Unlimited promotes personal growth, human rights, and systems transformation through holistic, peer-led recovery resources, including education, advocacy, and support in the areas of mental health, addiction, and trauma.

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

- Advocacy Unlimited provides no-cost/low-cost services that are primarily grant funded.
- Services include groups, classes, 1:1 peer support, individual & educational offerings. These offerings are facilitated by AU staff, contractors of the organization, or volunteers.
- AU staff, contractors, and volunteers may hold graduate degrees, or be licensed and certified in a profession. However, the services provided to participants on behalf of AU are not a medical service and do not act as medical advice.
- AU does not provide clinical therapy or mental health counseling. No diagnosis, treatment or advice will be offered at any time.
- AU reserves the right to refuse services to clients at any time, including but not limited to discontinuing any and all services to any participant who in the sole opinion of AU is not benefiting from its services.
- Feedback is welcome and participants have the right to file a grievance (See AU Complaint & Grievance Policy).
- By participating in any service offered by AU, the participant agrees to release AU from any and all liability claims of any type, for any reason.

### **SELF ACCOUNTABILITY & CHOICE**

- At AU, we hold the hope and vision that people can overcome serious emotional distress and personally devastating circumstances without pathologizing their experiences and feelings.
- We often connect with people who are the most marginalized members of our community – the majority of whom live with the experience of receiving a psychiatric diagnosis at some point in their life and as recipients of psychiatric care.
- We believe all people hold the capacity to discover their potential beyond a psychiatric diagnosis and live a life of self-defined purpose.
- With that said, we also affirm that society offers many forms of support, in addition to the array of services we provide. You are encouraged to utilize any other necessary avenues of support so you can feel comfortable and confident to receive the full care you need and deserve. Our services are not intended to act as a sole support system.
- Through AU, we are here to support members of the community who voluntarily seek to receive services.
- We trust participants will take responsibility for their personal needs so full participation is possible. We trust our participants to use their judgment to say “no” to any aspects of our services and stop at any time.
- While we are not responsible **for** one another, we are responsible **to** one another to maintain a healthy, supportive, and sober space. We ask that all people entering our spaces uphold the values of self-respect and respect for others, including other participants, staff, facilitators, and other members of the community.
- It is expected that you will step away from the space if participation is not bringing you towards feeling better than how you felt when you first connected.
- We want what is best for each person, and we trust you will know what is best for yourself.
- Requests will be taken into consideration, and we reserve the right to say no.
- You are encouraged to come during times of crisis, as well as times of security.

**PARTICIPATION IN ANY ADVOCACY UNLIMITED SERVICE IMPLIES CONSENT.**

**ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE AU CLIENTS RIGHTS OFFICER:**

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