

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

VALUED STATUS POLICY

Policy number:	3.0.2	Approved by Management Committee:	28 th February 2017
Version:	2.0	Signed off by Executive:	28 th February 2017
Responsible person:	Coordinator	Scheduled Review Date:	28 th February 2020

Purpose

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will aim to be a model agency in seeking the most positive interpretation of people with disability and the most value conferring and positive associations, which will support and enhance the potential of people with disability to maintain and develop their competencies, abilities and contributions, and to enable others to recognize them.

Policy

Principles of Citizen Advocacy

1. In their own behaviour with people with disability, and in speaking about them, the Management Committee and staff will model respect and dignity towards people with disabilities.
2. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will consciously avoid associating people with disability with images, places or actions which confer or have the potential to confer negative and devaluing images and interpretations of people with disability.
3. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that people with disability have the right to hold valued roles in society and fulfil the responsibilities associated with these roles.
4. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that people with disability have the right to participate as active and valued members in the community, to have lifestyles which are valued by the community, and to be offered the most conducive opportunities to do so.
5. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy believes that making a one to one relationship between a valued unpaid citizen, who makes a voluntary commitment to stand by and represent the interests of a person with disability, is through positive association, a valid way of promoting the valued status of people with disability.

Training Opportunities

1. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will actively encourage new staff and Management Committee members to undertake the full Social Role Valorisation and PASSING (Program Analysis of Service Systems Implementation of Normalisation Goals) workshops.
2. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will be a model in the positive interpretation of protégés to family, service providers and others involved in the life of the protégé.

Recruitment of Advocates

1. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will recruit unpaid valued citizens, who make a voluntary commitment to represent a person with disability, as citizen advocates.
2. When recruiting potential advocates Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will seek to find a competent person who has the skills and personal qualities which are most suited to the fundamental advocacy needs and personal qualities of the protégé, and who has valued roles and responsibilities which would be of benefit to the protégé.
3. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will take care to emphasise to potential advocates the competencies, skills and attributes of the protégé in the most positive manner possible, and to identify and present potential opportunities for the protégé to develop skills and competencies.

Orientation of Advocates

1. As part of the orientation process all advocates will be informed of the Citizen Advocacy principles, and the importance of enhancing the image and competencies of people with disability towards obtaining valued roles.
2. Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will promote to potential advocates the powerful influence of citizen advocates in creating valued opportunities and experiences by virtue of their presence in the life of a protégé and the positive impact of citizen advocates on others involved in the life of the protégés.

Support of Advocates

Through follow along and support procedures, Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will support and advise the Advocate to challenge and assist others such as family, services, associates etc involved in the life of the protégé, to question their negative perceptions and attitudes towards the protégé.

Related Documents

3.0.1 *Advocate Independence Policy*

References

Not applicable.

Ratification

This statement was adopted by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy's Management Committee at its meeting held on:

28 / 02 / 2017.
(Date)

SIGNED:

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President

28 / 2 / 17
(Date)

SIGNED:

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Secretary

28 / 2 / 17
(Date)

