

2020/21 Bellwoods Community Advisory Council (BCAC)

What is BCAC?

The BCAC was established in April 2019 to represent the voice of Bellwoods' Clients and Family/Friends/Supporters. The Council serves in an advisory capacity making recommendations to the Board on matters that impact the experience of clients with a focus on providing advice on issues that will improve service experiences and quality of life for Bellwoods' clients. The BCAC brings together individuals with a variety of experiences to:

- Provide feedback on, and ideas for, initiatives and programs that enhance, ensure and embrace the model of client-centred services and the Independent Living Philosophy;
- Offer a collaborative and positive force to enhance high quality services at Bellwoods; and
- Ensure client engagement and adoption of client-centred principles and practices at Bellwoods.

The BCAC does not discuss issues around the service needs of individual clients. Bellwoods has formal feedback processes in place to raise and respond to these issues.

Membership on the Council includes Clients and Family/Friends/Supporters from across Bellwoods' programs and services including Supportive Housing, Housing Hubs, Attendant Outreach, and Transition Programs. A member of Bellwoods' Board and members of the senior staff also participate on the Council.

What is the role of BCAC members?

Members represent the collective voice of Bellwoods' Clients and Family/Friends. Those interested in membership should be:

- Able to participate in pre-scheduled meetings at accessible locations
- Willing to think beyond their own personal experiences
- Comfortable working with Clients, Family/Friends, staff and Board members

- A good listener who respects the opinions and perspectives of others even when they do not agree
- Able to bring a positive, solution-oriented attitude to discussions
- Willing and able to respect and keep confidential information discussed by Council.

What is the time commitment for BCAC Members?

The initial term for members is two (2) years, with the option to remain on Council for one an additional term. The Council meets four (4) times a year, for two-three hours, at an accessible location. Between meetings there may be materials to review and comment on and/or opportunities to become involved in special projects. These activities may require up to four (4) extra hours of time each month.

Will BCAC Members be compensated for their time and expenses?

BCAC Members are volunteers who commit their time and effort freely to strengthen the Bellwoods community. Reasonable expenses such as transit, parking and/or food associated with Council meetings is covered by Bellwoods.

How are BCAC Members selected?

All current Bellwoods Clients and their Family/Friends /Supporters are eligible to submit a short “Expression of Interest” form that asks about your background and what you would like to bring to the Council.