

## Advisory



There is an ongoing dialogue between Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the V-FAC. Staff seeks the input of V-FAC to improve practice guidelines, policy, and care programs from the perspectives of family and persons with lived and living experience.

## Education



The V-FAC oversees the implementation of the [VCH MHSU Family Involvement Policy](#) and assists the Family Support and Involvement Team coordinators in promoting Culturally Safe Person and Family Centred Care. V-FAC members contribute to the “Family Connections Newsletter” which includes stories of families, interviews with MHSU experts, and links to resources.

## Advocacy



Family members bring advocacy ideas to the V-FAC for research and discussion, and determine the best course of action (if any). Letters of position are often created and distributed to appropriate leadership (e.g. government, partners, VCH) with the goal of influencing policy, funding, and other systemic changes.

# JOIN US!

**We are always looking for new members.**

**We are comprised of family members and persons with lived and living experience. We meet monthly via Zoom. Diverse perspectives are valued. We extend a wholehearted welcome to new members.**

**For more information contact us at**

**vancouverfac@ vch.ca**

**Vancouver**  
**CoastalHealth**

*Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.*

**Family Support and  
Involvement Program**

# Vancouver Family Advisory Committee (V-FAC)



**AN EFFECTIVE VOICE  
FOR FAMILIES IN  
VANCOUVER MENTAL  
HEALTH AND  
SUBSTANCE USE  
(MHSU) SERVICES**



## From our members:

The role of the V-FAC is to represent the diverse voices of families within Vancouver Mental Health and Substance Use Services and act in advisory, advocacy, and educational roles to improve the care experience.

Membership consists of family members, persons with lived and living experience and mental health and substance use professionals.

### Our Objectives:

- ◆ Facilitate the development and maintenance of a culture that supports family involvement as an essential component of a patient's care team
- ◆ Ensure that services reflect best practices of client and family-centered care,
- ◆ Support the development of a culture of ongoing support of family and patient well-being

We welcome you to join us in this work. We are always looking for new members!

*"It is a tremendous privilege to belong to this vibrant and committed group of staff, family members, and those with lived and living experience. The V-FAC is a community of all sorts who come together in solidarity to improve and envision services. Our discussions are safe and purposeful. Our perspectives are deepened through discourse. We are devoted to making MHSU services a priority at all levels."* - Carol Anderson, member of the FAC as family and Person with Lived and Living Experience

*"Being on the FAC is an integral part of my own healing since being of service to others is being of service to myself. Being on the FAC empowers me to share my circumstances. I want potential members to be aware that FAC membership of various backgrounds, concerns and abilities brings diversity in developing support and advocacy"* - Robert Sung, former FAC member and person with lived experience

Please visit

<https://www.vch.ca/en/vancouver-mental-health-and-substance-use-family-advisory-committee>

for more information,  
including the history of the V-FAC



*"My hope is that care for mental health and substance use will continuously improve and that the FAC can be part of that. It is essential that family members, regardless of their own life journey, be included in the discussion because it is family members with their deep ties to those receiving care who reinforce the reasons to reach for a better quality of life. Often as well, its family members who provide tremendous support when persons cannot connect to the care available in the health care system or when that care does not exist for them."* - Patti Zane, FAC member and family member

*"It's a real privilege to support a group of family members who want to inform and improve the services that we provide. At each meeting I'm truly amazed by the dedication, passion, and energy these family members bring from their own lived experience and that they choose to share and help those who are receiving services or might one day need to use our services."* Jennifer Glasgow, VCH Manager and FAC staff liaison