

CVS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Area: **Operational Policies – Service Delivery**

Policy # & Name: **5.23 Advocacy and Inclusion**

Group: All Staff; Volunteers; Contracted Caregivers, Individuals served and their families

Purpose:

To enhance the advocacy abilities of CVS consumers, staff, families and caregivers, and support the development of self-advocacy skills.

Policy Statement:

CVS is committed to community inclusion, and to promoting the development of self-advocacy skills. We provide opportunities for individuals, families and others to learn, implement and practice advocacy skills.

Practice Standards:

Provide advocacy sessions, designed for individuals, family members, caregivers and staff.

Include training opportunities for advocacy skill development in program curriculums.

Facilitate practical opportunities for individuals to learn and implement advocacy skills through the Self Advocates Group.

Include advocacy in consumer orientation sessions.

Include advocacy training during orientation and in staff development.

Provide support to ensure that all consumers:

Are included in their community and activities of choice;

Know and exercise their rights and responsibilities;

Have access to information about self-advocacy;

Are supported to represent themselves; and

Are regularly asked for input in the planning and delivery of services that affect them.

Policy Audit: March Annually

Date Issued: March 2004

Date Revised:

Position

Responsible: Executive Director or Designate

References:

- ✍ Policy 5.4 - Consumer Rights and Responsibilities
- ✍ 9.25 - Statement on (Adult) Consumer Rights
- ✍ 9.26 – Rights of the Child
- ✍ Library
