



Oxford House
Housing Service
Committee Representative

Housing Service Committee Representative

- Each House shall have its own duly elected Housing Service Committee Representative (HSC Rep.). The HSC Rep. must be a member of the particular house and shall serve a term not to exceed six months. A member may not serve as HSC Rep. for two consecutive terms but may be elected to HSC Rep. again six months after the completion of one term.

Housing Service Committee Representative Duties

- The HSC Rep. should be an experienced house member with a basic understanding of the Oxford House Model/System of Operations.
- The HSC Rep. will attend and represent their house at scheduled Housing Service Committee meetings and other Housing Service Committee activities.

Housing Service Committee Representative Duties

- The HSC Rep. will participate in scheduled presentations at area treatment centers and other referral agencies, informing about Oxford House, and distributing Oxford House literature and vacancy information.
- The HSC Rep. will assist in the various tasks of opening a new Oxford Houses.
- The HSC Rep. will assist the HSC Chairperson and Committee with supporting/training struggling houses in the Chapter as needed.

Housing Service Committee Representative Duties

- The HSC Rep. will inform their individual house of pertinent information discussed at Housing Service Committee meetings and other Housing Service Committee goals and activities.
- The HSC Rep. is encouraged to develop partnerships with other organizations in the recovery community and help Oxford House maintain positive relationships in their community at large.

What is the Chapter Housing Service Committee?

- A permanent committee of every Chapter
- The most important aspect of Chapter operations
 - ✓ Strong chapters full of strong houses have strong/active Housing Service Committees
 - ✓ Weak chapters full of weak houses have weak/inactive Housing Service Committees
- An incredible opportunity to be of service to your fellow persons in recovery
 - ✓ Service work will keep you in recovery!

What is the Chapter Housing Service Committee?

- HSC is comprised of:
 - ✓ Chapter Housing Service Committee Chairperson
 - ✓ Chapter Vice-Chairperson
 - ✓ One Housing Service Committee Representative from each house in Chapter
 - ✓ (Some houses/chapters encourage *Alternate* Housing Service Committee Representatives from each house)
 - ✓ House member volunteers
 - ✓ Alumni volunteers

Three Primary Functions of Housing Service Committees

- 1: OPENING NEW HOUSES
- 2: OUTREACH: ATTRACTION/EDUCATION
- 3: ASSISTING NEW/STRUGGLING HOUSES

Opening New Houses

- No time limit to membership in Oxford House
 - we all have an obligation to help create new beds
- We expand to meet the need of more sick and suffering addicts seeking recovery
- Most rewarding experience in Oxford House
- Outreach workers need your help!

Outreach: Attraction/Education

- Oxford House too often the best kept secret of recovery supports
 - ✓ Chapters need to do more!
- Presentations, presentations, presentations!
- Guidelines in HSC Rep. training packet
- 90% of weak chapters/struggling houses are because of failure to fill vacancies
- Ask outreach worker for help (especially presentations to professionals)
- Establish regular schedule of presentations

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Outreach: Attraction/Education

- Places to do outreach/presentations:
 - ✓ Inpatient treatment centers
 - ✓ Outpatient treatment centers (IOP)
 - ✓ Detoxification/crisis stabilization centers
 - ✓ Recovery centers
 - ✓ Community services boards
 - ✓ Jails & prisons
 - Reentry fairs
 - Treatment units/therapeutic communities
 - ✓ Community corrections/probation office
 - ✓ Public defenders offices
 - ✓ Reentry council meetings
 - ✓ Public defenders
 - ✓ Faith-based communities/outreach organizations
 - ✓ And more!

Assisting New Houses

- Housing Service Committee should attend all house meetings for at least first 1-2 months
- New houses become struggling houses when HSC neglects them
- Even new houses with outreach/core members need HSC support

Assisting Struggling Houses

- Housing Service Committee is there to of *service* – no bossism – the HSC’s collective experience, strength and hope is a powerful and persuasive voice
- House is permanently chartered and problems not charter violations: HSC there to train and offer suggestions
- House is violating charter (not expelling relapsers, not financially self-supporting, not operating democratically per Oxford House System of Operations) or detrimentally effecting other houses/Oxford House as a whole (5th Tradition): HSC should take necessary corrective actions (consult w/ outreach)

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How to be Effective

- Show respect, announce visits
- Lead by example
- Don't be controlling
- Avoid being court for personality disputes or problems house/members have not tried to resolve on house level
- Focus on solutions

How to be Effective

- Know the House Manual/Nine Traditions
- Know house officer duties/paperwork
- Know the house's rules (some variation)
- Always schedule follow-up visit:
 - ✓ HSC can discuss solutions/strategies at monthly meeting
 - ✓ Follow up to see if house is acting on suggestions/expectations

Regular House Visits

- DO NOT have individual HSC Reps conduct house visits – team A/team B or committee as a whole
- Use HSC house visit sheet
- Walk the house
- When opening new houses or dealing with multiple struggling houses consider holding off on regular house visit schedule