Community Advocacy: serving on boards and committees

MATERIALS FROM THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SELF-HELP CLEARINGHOUSE
Why serve on a board or committee?
Why serve on a board or committee?

- **IMPACT MENTAL HEALTH POLICY:** Empower others and improve lives.
- **MOVE THE SYSTEM TOWARDS RECOVERY:** Bring a new perspective to the table.
- **WORK ON IMPORTANT ISSUES:** Use your lived experience to move others.
What are the responsibilities of a board?

**MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLAN**
Uses the organization’s mission and values as the lens for long-range planning.

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT**
Reviews and approves budgets, provides accountability and ensures adequate resources.

**EFFECTIVENESS AND LEADERSHIP**
Hires and evaluates executive director, evaluates the organization’s effectiveness.

**REPRESENTATION**
Represents the organization to the public, especially to sources of financial support.
Individual board members and director's responsibilities:

**FULL PARTICIPATION**
Attend meetings regularly, participate actively in decision-making.

**KNOWLEDGE**
Be well informed about what the organization does, how it does it, and the environment in which it operates.

**DECISION-MAKING**
Use reasonable care when making decisions. Make decisions that benefit the organization as a whole.
Characteristics of Effective Boards

What do you see within these images?