

SUGGESTIONS FOR FILLING VACANCIES

Relapses tend to occur more frequently over the summer and many houses are looking for new residents during these months – Below are suggestions for houses with empty beds:

- 1. Ask your chapter to form a Vacancy Committee to visit area rehabs and do presentations on a regular basis.**
- 2. If an area house resident is disabled and has to perform volunteer work, assign them the weekly responsibility for calling all houses in the area to get vacancies and then notifying the rehabs in and outside your area by telephone or fax of these vacancies. Rehabilitation Centers who have internet access should be notified that they can use the NC website- oxfordhouseinc.org - to find which houses have beds open. All members in your house should do their part in recruiting new members.**
- 3. Houses should be willing to interview potential residents anytime. Nowhere in the Oxford House Manual does it say to only hold interviews on certain days or times.**
- 4. Put up flyers in the community and treatment centers. Houses with access to a computer can create personalized flyers.**
- 5. Look for potential residents in 12 step groups or other recovery gatherings – after the meeting has adjourned, discuss Oxford House and the benefits with the potential newcomers.**
- 6. Houses with a 30-day clean time requirement might consider lowering this requirement and interviewing prospective residents on a case-by-case basis. There are very few 28-day programs left now and requiring a person coming from a 14 or 21 day program to wait until they have 30 days may jeopardize their sobriety and may make them choose another program.**
- 7. Once new residents move in, Houses residents should try to keep them there by helping them feel “a part of”. Use the buddy system and help the newcomer to adjust to the new environment and get to 12-step meetings.**
- 8. If your Chapter has a regularly scheduled workshop, be sure to invite area rehab counselors to attend the workshop; one of the houses in the Chapter might also have a Saturday or Sunday Open House for the area rehabs so they can visit an actual Oxford House.**