

**Dissemination of Longitudinal Study of Consumer/Survivor Initiatives  
Summary of Regional Workshops**

**Meeting in Kenora  
Monday, July 19, 2004**

**Participants:**

12 CSI staff, members and service providers

OPDI staff: Janice Towndrow, Raymond Cheng, Shawn Lauzon

Presenters: Joanna Ochocka, Janice Towndrow, Raymond Cheng, Shawn Lauzon

**Summary:**

A morning workshop took place between 9 am and 12:00 pm to review the findings of the report. After lunch, the afternoon consumer/survivor caucus further analyzed the implications of the survey. Participants shared the following:

1. There was consensus that consumer/survivors and community mental health service providers collaborate more closely in this area of Northwestern Ontario. At the same time, it was shared that leadership “buy-in” in the system, whether it be done by a psychiatrist, physician, or mental health manager, is important to the mental health reform process if it is to be recovery-oriented.
2. The research findings are supportive of the stated needs of consumer/survivors.
3. Survey findings had to reflect statistical standards of credibility. This explained the in-depth questioning that accompanied the slide presentation.
4. There were questions surrounding the urban/rural profile of the participating consumer/survivor initiatives. The respective driving distances for Kenora and satellite offices in Dryden and Red Lake were, by comparison, much more distant. One workshop participant required an overnight hotel stay in order to meet with a member in the local general hospital.
5. It was felt that to link the concept of recovery with this research required more cohesiveness.
6. The participants expressed their thanks that these results have finally been made available after five years of expectations.
7. It was important that the study reviewed comparisons of study groups of those active in consumer/survivor initiatives alongside those who were non-active.
8. A good question asked was: Can you reframe your research results to show what the individual outcomes and impacts were for participants?  
For example, what were the outcomes for those who participated for 4 hours (the minimum number required to be considered “active) and those at the top range of 920 hours over the study period?
9. The study has implications for consumer/survivor initiatives to implement multi-year planning; therefore participatory action research should be continued.
10. Consumer/survivors feel empowered by research.

**Next Steps**

1. Summary notes to all participants
2. Further discussion about developing Evaluation Framework for CSIs in Ontario at the OPDI Conference in September 2004
3. A proposal to develop Evaluation Framework for CSIs in Ontario – drafted and distributed for feedback.