

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

**Meeting in North Bay
Tuesday, July 27, 2004**

Participants:

38 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:

Why Do We Evaluate?

There is a trend towards recovery/empowerment research; this research incorporates the principles of recovery. Therefore CSI's can be strengthened through research and evaluation. Reasons for doing evaluation were offered by participants:

- To benchmark
- To document
- To improve
- To learn
- To measure satisfaction
- To justify
- To check
- To monitor resource allocation
- To assess needs
- To validate
- To judge
- To find out what is worthwhile
- To do a reality check
- To give direction
- To develop vision
- To plan
- To focus
- To redirect
- To make the government happy
- To be accountable to ourselves and others
- To keep your job and create other employment opportunities
- To prove
- To show progress
- To show responsibility to members

- To demonstrate responsiveness
- To respond to the needs of members and funders

Principles of Good Evaluation

Finally, there was a discussion of what were the principles of good evaluation. Points raised by participants were:

- Helps you to determine where to go
- Helps you be clear about the purpose of the evaluation
- Contains good components of research including scientific method/rigor and objectivity
- Supports underlying values of consumer/survivor initiatives such as human rights, empowerment, citizenship, autonomy, confidentiality, the importance of experiential knowledge
- Good evaluation identifies who benefits and who doesn't
- It identifies assumptions
- It is inclusive
- It clearly identifies stakeholders
- It allows for equality in research contribution and participation
- It draws on the underlying skills and capacities that people already have
- It is action oriented (informed action)
- It should test the boundaries (biases) of the system
- It should be collective
- It should be outcome oriented
- It should describe the realities of Consumer/Survivor Initiatives in the province articulating their uniqueness and special challenges or barriers
- It should research the cause(s) of mental illness in a more ecological way rather than focusing on one particular discipline (such as genetics).

Following this was an interactive Logic Model Exercise where CSI members were asked to name as many activities that took place within their organizations. These were sorted out as individual and systemic outcomes/impacts/changes, and the question of how the activities and outcomes were linked.

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.