

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

**Meeting in Ottawa
Thursday, June 10, 2004**

Participants:

CSI staff, members and service providers: 38

OPDI staff: Janice Towndrow, Raymond Cheng, Shawn Lauzon

Presenters: Joanna Ochocka and Geoff Nelson

Summary:

A morning workshop took place between 9 am and 12:00 pm to review the findings of the Longitudinal Study. Some highlighted discussions that took place among the participants were:

- Mental health agencies should work with consumer/survivor initiatives
- There should be more effort placed at disseminating to psychiatric hospitals
- Partnership, coordination, and information-sharing should be considered
- How to keep this study from gathering dust – need a strategy
- More research on activities and outcomes needed
- In the future, write MPPs and MPs, and invite Trillium Foundation consultants

An afternoon consumer/survivor caucus further analyzed the implications of the survey.

There is a trend towards recovery/empowerment research; this research incorporates the principles of recovery. Therefore CSIs can be strengthened through research and evaluation. Critical points were brought forth:

- This research on CSIs incorporates the principles of recovery
- The evaluation is a means of showing that CSIs are accountable
- Evaluation is responsive to the diversity of the consumer/survivor movement
- Benefits of research is in ownership and empowerment by the consumer/survivor researchers and organizations that took part
- Employment opportunities were created for consumer/survivors
- Ultimately, this longitudinal study needs to be linked to decision-makers
- Educational and training possibilities are seen as next steps
- Needs to link with other disability groups and cross-disabilities

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.

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

- The need for a star or advocate
- Show cost savings
- Should be similar to values of CSIs (self-determination/independent agency)
- Compare own struggle with another movement, but not that of prisoners
- Social justice is a goal for most CSIs
- Systems change is needed (need evaluation)
- Eradication of term “mental illness”; need to look at societal problems rather than blaming the victim
- Language of recovery, process of recovery and wellness rather than “illness”
- Context of life circumstances and experiences (homelessness and poverty)
- Need to be gentle with one another
- Honour experiential knowledge
- What other things people are involved in to better their lives needs to be shared
- Framework that changes, has authenticity, and should allow and respect diversity
- Easy to get co-opted into traditional models of service
- Propose to have an eastern region consumer think-tank

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.