

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

**Meeting in Thunder Bay
Wednesday, July 21, 2004**

Participants:

18 CSI staff, members and service providers
OPDI staff: Janice Towndrow, Raymond Cheng, Shawn Lauzon
Presenters: Joanna Ochocka, Shawn Lauzon, Janice Towndrow and Raymond Cheng

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.

There was a discussion of reasons why we evaluate. Points raised by participants were:

Why Evaluate?

- To see improvements
- To see what is not working
- Socrates said “The unexamined life is not worth living”
- To provide access to resources, employment and skills
- To see change
- To find out if we should exist
- To find out whether opinions are correct
- To give voice
- To provide transparency
- To learn
- To demonstrate accountability
- To be responsive to people
- To make sure you are on the right track
- To monitor
- To make sure that money spent is effective
- To say who we are and what we do
- To support the narrative
- To give empirical evidence
- To animate the evidence

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

Principles that Guide Good Evaluation

- Breadth and Depth
- Designed to embrace all yet allows for uniqueness

- Consistency
- Uses comparisons
- Sets benchmarks
- Looks at situations before (pre) and after (post)
- Encourages involvement of consumer/survivors in employment and training
- Ensures that factors that could corrupt results do not influence outcomes

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.