History and Accomplishments of the Consumer/Survivor/Ex-patient (c/s/x) Movement

Developed by the National Mental Health Consumers’ Self-Help Clearinghouse

http://www.mhselfhelp.org
800-553-4539
Peer Advocacy Movement Grew out of Struggle for Rights & Empowerment

International Conference on Human Rights and Against Psychiatric Oppression, Vermont, 1985
C/s/x Movement Roots Are in Civil Rights Movement and in General Self-Help Movement (AA, etc.)

“It is important to go beyond self-help and mutual support to systems advocacy.”

Frank Riessman
1924-2004
Ex-patients’ Rights Groups Form in 1970s and Early 1980s

...in Massachusetts, California, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Oregon

Judi Chamberlin
Sally Zinman
Jay Mahler
Ed Knight
Leonard Roy Frank
Joseph Rogers
Sally Clay
Dan Fisher
David Oaks
George Ebert
“We want as full as possible control over our own lives. Is that too much to ask?”

Howie the Harp (1953-1995)
The Alternatives conferences are organized by and for people with psychiatric histories. (Above: closing ceremony of Alternatives ’85, the first Alternatives conference, which 450 attended.)
Movement Evolves, Gains Power

- “A seat at the table”
- Serving on boards and committees
- Closing state hospitals
- Legislative advocacy
- Support on federal level

Neal Brown (right) and Jackie Parrish of the federal Community Support Programs Branch, now part of SAMHSA, helped the movement gain financial support.
Accomplishments include helping close Philadelphia State Hospital and ensuring that the dollars followed the patients into the community (1990).
President George H.W. Bush signs ADA (1990), with Justin Dart at right.
Decades Spent Convincing the Establishment of Peer Support’s Value

- Presenting at conferences
- Attending meetings of professionals and administrators
- Serving on boards and committees
- Writing and publishing articles

Dr. Bernard Arons

1993 sit-in led to more funding for peer-run programs.

Former SAMHSA administrator supported recovery movement, fought S&R

Charles G. Curie
5 National TACs Help Movement Grow:

www.mhselfhelp.org

www.power2u.org

www.cafetacenter.net

www.consumerstar.org

www.peerlink.us
Other National Groups Support C/S/X Movement

NARPA

Judge David L. BAZELON CENTER for Mental Health Law

Mental Health America

NASMHPD

NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK
Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities
Paradigm shift: Establishment believes in recovery and accepts value of peer support


Michael F. Hogan, Chair, President’s New Freedom Commission

Then-U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher
“Powers-that-be” realize that recovery-oriented, peer-run services are key to recovery

SAMHSA recognizes Peer Support as one of the 10 fundamental components of recovery. The 10 are:

- Self-Direction
- Individualized and Person-Centered
- Empowerment
- Holistic
- Non-Linear
- Strengths-Based
- Peer Support
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Hope

SAMHSA Administrator Pam Hyde (top); CMHS Director Paolo del Vecchio (bottom)
A national coalition of statewide consumer/survivor organizations, founded in 2006 to ensure that consumers/survivors have a major voice in the development and implementation of health care, mental health, and social policies at the state and national levels, empowering people to recover and lead a full life in the community.

Senator Tom Harkin, of Iowa, shares a special time with Dan Fisher, Rachel Freund, and Lauren Spiro at the Presidential Forum in Columbus Ohio, July 26, 2008.