



Toronto Central LHIN Consumer/Survivor Initiative Network presents:

History and Direction of our movement: Where do we go from here?

Wednesday, July 12, 2017
Friends House -60 Lowther Avenue

About the CSI Network:

The CSI Network brings together three consumer/survivor initiatives in Toronto that provide a range of services to the general public and to consumer/survivors of the mental health and addictions system. Network members are A-Way Express, Consumer /Survivor Information Resource Centre, and Working for Change. Some of us focus on services for people with mental health and addictions issues and some of us provide a commercial service to the general public. What unites us is a shared commitment to a model where staffing, operational decision-making and governance is in the hands of people with lived experience of the mental health and addictions system, because we believe this model contributes to better outcomes for service users.

Agenda:

11:30 – 12:00	Registration and sign-in
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	History of the Consumer/Survivor movement
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:15	Where do we go from here?
4:15 – 4:30	Closing remarks and Raffle





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About the facilitators:

Allan Strong:

Allan has been active as an advocate, volunteer and employee within the mental health sector for over thirty years. Allan has spoken at several conferences, sharing his story and experiences as a user of mental health services and as a worker in the mental health system. Allan has belonged to several organizations as a volunteer. OPDI, CMHA Ontario and The Self Help Resource Centre have been among the organizations that Allan has been involved with. Allan has had parts of his story featured in the books *Beyond Crazy* by Scott Simmie and Julia Nunes and *Beyond the Crazy House* by Pat Capponi. Allan is a passionate spokesperson for change in how services are delivered. He is a passionate advocate for peer support. Allan's dream is that one day all forms of prejudice and discrimination with respect to mental health will be eliminated.

Melissa Corcoran:

Melissa Corcoran provides strength-based leadership and opportunities for personal growth through self-awareness and self-care practices. She strives to build inclusive and supportive communities and reduce stigma by creating innovative programs that make peer support values and practices more accessible in everyday life.

Melissa's most recent role as Program Manager at the Self-Help Resource Centre, involved supporting the growth of the organization through a strength-based, person-centered, and anti-oppressive lens. She also contributed towards the advancement of recovery and peer support practices with the Canadian Mental Health Association's Health Equity Work Group. Melissa volunteers her time advocating and ensuring the future success of one of SHRC's programs ODSP Peer Navigation Program, in addition to her role as co-chair for the Consumer Survivor Information Resource Centre Board of Directors and recent contributions as a director for Sound Times Board of Directors.

She is in the process of completing a Masters degree in Counselling Psychotherapy and Community Development and has completed professional certificates in Mental Health and Addictions, as well as Concurrent Disorders. She is trained in Mindfulness, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing and is a certified facilitator in Youth & Family Wellness Recovery Action Plan workshops, Pathways to Recovery, Mindfulness Ambassador Council, First Contact, and Peer Zone.

Her prior work at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, as lead Outreach Counsellor, involved the creation and provision of mental health educational and skill building programming, and the facilitation of client orientations and harm reduction treatment program. Melissa also operated her own private counselling practice and worked and volunteered as a Peer Counsellor for the Gerstein Crisis Centre.