

**Ohio Empowerment Center formally the Interim Planning Team
January 14, 2009 Notes**

Ground Rules Set

- Keep it brief
- Be respectful
- Stay on task
- Be mindful of the weather
- Introduce yourself before you speak
- Be a good listener
- Stay open to possibilities
- Be positive, reasonable and asset based
- Constructive criticism only
- Be clear about what you say and how you got there

History

- May/June 1984 – about 10-12 people from around the state gathered and decided to have a conference.
- September 1984 – This first statewide consumer conference was called “Our Future is Now”. Presentations included housing, employment, getting consumers on boards, advocacy and rights, etc. Conference participants elected 12 Network Coordinators.
- September 1984 to October 1985 –During this time the Network Coordinators formulated bylaws, developed a purpose statement and made plans for another conference.
- October 1985 – 2nd conference was held. Participants approved the bylaws, a mission and a name: WE CARE Network (**W**orking **E**ntity of **C**onsumers **A**dvocating **R**ights for **E**veryone)
- August 1986 – Ohio hosted the national mental health conference in Cincinnati.

Ohio Recovery: History and Principles:

Glenn discussed the history and principles of Ohio’s recovery movement. Handouts were provided.

Consensus Building

- Consensus based on decision making was established
- Transformation
- Relationship building
- Top down decision making
- Outcome vs. process
- Diversity
- Creativity
- Using a group dynamic

Decisions

- Process – people heard, listened to and respected

- Affirmation

Outcomes

- Individuals
- Unconditional partners
- Independence / Knowledge
- Change in how you see the world

Informational Transformation

- Value
- Content
- New skills
- Isolation – part of group
- Enhances communication
- Leadership styles

Relationships

- Stake in going through the process
- Outcomes continued – viable consumer organizations
- Work through conflicts – don't walk away
- Financial crisis
- Change process
- No hidden agenda / transparency
- Evolve and learn from each other
- Relationships sustained
- More complex relationships emerge
- Unequal decision making from top down

Tips

- Maintain process / feedback
- Connect to community
- Need training and education
- New leadership
- Maintain independence

Maryland's Consumer Movement

- Mike Finkle joined by teleconference to discuss On Our Own – Maryland's first consumer group
- 1982 consumer conference – the decision was made to open a state wide consumer organization
- Started to advocate for state wide rights, policy and commitments
- MHA, NAMI MD, etc. all had state wide organizations of their own
- Established a Board of Directors and bylaws of their own
- Most today have stuck with the name On Our Own, but not all of the 21 affiliates
- Supportive state authority

Maryland's Funding

- MH authority
- For-service agencies (local advocacy board)
- Olmstead grant

Rural Areas (Maryland)

- Maryland serves between 700 and 2400
- 600 unduplicated people served state wide

Organizational Structure (Ohio)

- Concerns about timeline – this needs to be expedited
- Absent consumer voice
- Needs to be up and running as soon as possible
- MACC – started as a large group and grew to be a state wide organization.
- Alternative to RFP – founding Board – Hire staff and use a 501(c)(3) office staff
- Will need a Fiscal agent
- The budget is tight and will be plus or minus \$400,000
- Diversity
- Advocacy
- Moving ahead / forward
- Building merit by increasing independent funding
- Co-led by a CEO and a COO
- Pick a plan and stick with it

Bigger Issues

- Conflict of interest
- Establishing the role and structure of the organization
- Gathering the answers to the survey questions regarding the Board
- I.D. a 4th planning model (same as RFP model)
- Meeting an extra 2x – twice in February and March
- Reviewing legal issues, conflicts of interest and the impact of diversity
- Have a planning body
- Consumer voice – policy decisions
- Establishing a policy staff and steering committee
- Using / choosing one of the following models; develop RFP, developing Board, develop steering committee.
- Agreeing upon a website