

DRAFT
COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS DIALOGUE SESSIONS
ALTERNATIVES 2001
PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA

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Main Points:

1. Create opportunities for truly meaningful employment.
2. Make communication to consumers timely. Being asked to provide input on too short notice is tokenism
3. Foster meaningful involvement by equalizing consumer participation with that of others. Where necessary, provide training to ensure their comprehension.
4. Change from the “cash cow” mentality (how much the provider gets for each person attending a program) to having consumers determine the services they need.
5. Educate the community at large outside the mental health system.
6. Create legal advocacy for consumers living in boarding homes where no mental health regulations apply.
7. Make computers accessible to consumers
8. Re-write “What is CSS?”
9. Create climates where consumers are listened to and their opinions are respected.
10. Introduce working models from other disability groups, e.g., “Circle of Friends” and other natural supports.
11. “Reinvent the (CSP) wheel.”
12. Categorize consumers “back in” where they have been written out.
13. Make the media portray consumers and mental illness in a positive way.
14. Break down the divide between consumers and professionals.

Actions Participants Proposed (in priority order):

11. Reinvent the (CSP) wheel.”
7. Make computers accessible to consumers.
6. Create legal advocacy for consumers living in boarding homes where no mental health regulations apply.
1. Create opportunities for truly meaningful employment.

5. Educate the community at large outside the mental health system.

13. Make the media portray consumers and mental illness in a positive way.