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Stand by me: Can Citizen Advocacy promote reciprocal relationships? 5th International Social Role Valorisation Conference, Canberra, ACT, 21 Sep 2011 - 23 Sep 2011.

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Stand by Me

Can Citizen Advocacy promote reciprocal relationships?

5th International SRV Conference Canberra, ACT, Australia

Deborah Espiner, Frances Hartnett & Ana Maria de Vos



Citizen Advocacy Auckland

Overview of presentation

- Background to Citizen Advocacy Auckland
- Citizen Advocacy and Social Role Valorization
- Remaining true to the essence of Citizen Advocacy principles
- Reciprocity through a Social Role Valorization lens and applying to Citizen Advocacy relationships
- Examples of reciprocity in Citizen Advocacy
- Christie's and Niharika's story: a 4 minute DVD



Brief background: Citizen Advocacy Auckland Inc

- Founded in 1990
- Only programme in New Zealand
- Celebrated 20 years November 2010
- Founders were parents and professionals influenced by work of Dr Wolfensberger
 - Fran, Toronto, Canada, 1970s
 - Patricia O' Brien completing PhD (Melbourne)
 - Marilyn Craig, parent



Background (continued)

- Social Role Valorization theory foundation of Certificate, Diploma and Degree programmes (Auckland University)
- Dr Wolfensberger, John O'Brien, Michael Kendrick
- Board members trained as PASSING team leaders, facilitated PASSING workshops and evaluations
- C. A. Coordinators and Board members- CAPE training, C.A. conferences, SRV international conferences
- Links with key leaders in Australia (evaluations and C.A. programmes).

Key principles of Citizen Advocacy

- Advocate independence (loyalty to protégé)
- Programme independence
- Clarity of staff function
- Balanced orientation (to advocate independence loyalty to protégés needs)
- Diversity of needs and roles
- Avoid social over protection
- Positive imagery



Findings Internal Review

- 2009
- Key findings: Need to
 - Recruit more non-service aligned protégés
 - Find protégé and match with advocate
 - Move to more instrumental roles
 - Review Coordinator and Board roles



Fewer protégés referred by services

Service based referrals

- Seeking out non-service referred protégés
- Annual plan (2010) commitment not to take service referrals
- Coordinator is out in community seeking people in need of advocacy
- Board members and their networks identify people

Advocate recruitment

Identifying advocates before protégés

- Identify protégé first
- Advocates not receiving a choice of protégé
- Advocates
 - in a wider variety of instrumental and expressive roles
 - prepared to undertake high demand vigorous advocacy
 - In crisis advocacy roles



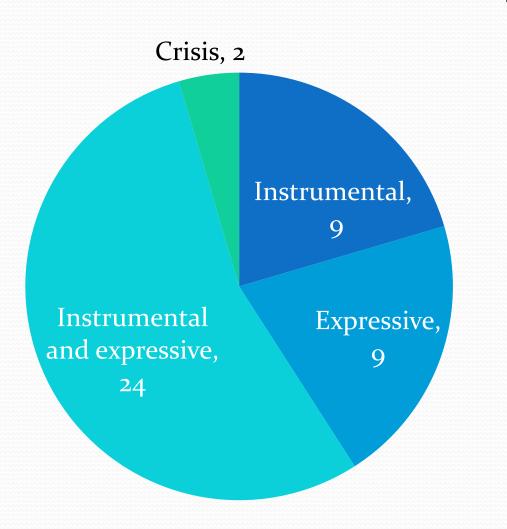
Need to move to more instrumental roles

Pre-dominance of 'friendship' roles

- Focus on protégé led recruitment- find person match advocate based on skill set.
 - Instrumental
 - Expressive
 - Crisis
- Training focuses on the needs of the protégé (before more general around principles of CA)



Roles: 31st August 2011 Total Matches =44



Instrumental

Expressive

Instrumental and expressive

Crisis



Review Coordinator and Board roles

 Board meetings had more focus on administration than on the needs of the protégé

- Profiles of protégés are discussed at Board meetingsbuilt into agenda
- New Board members undertake mandatory orientation
- Board members more involved in identifying potential protégé
- Coordinator to remain independent of the advocate role.



Can CA promote reciprocal relationships?

CA Nov. 2009 Internal Review	Matches
Long term	20
Likely to be long term	4
Not clear	8
Re-matched	9
Pre-existing	5
Total	46

Wounds society inflicts on people who are perceived negatively (Wolfensberger, 1998)

- Isolation, segregation, mass grouping.
- Rejection perhaps by family, neighbours. community, society, service workers.
- Removal from one's physical environment.
- Broken social relationships social and relationship discontinuity.
- Loss of natural free relationships for artificial paid ones.
- Involuntary material poverty.
- Impoverishment of experience.
- Loss of control, autonomy, freedom.



Wounds (Wolfensberger, 1998).

- Dehumanization.
- Exclusion from the knowledge of and participation in those things that give quality to life
- Having ones life wasted
- Brutalization- death-making
- Awareness source of anguish to, loved ones
- Personal insecurity, dislike of oneself.
- Resentment of more privileged
- Receiving additional labels



Reciprocal relationship



- Mutual relationship
 - Both parties benefit
 - Both parties give up something to get something from the other
- Values the benefits of diversity, dialogue and shared learning
- Complementary relationship



Reciprocity demonstrated in DVD Gavin & Gunalan





Reciprocity demonstrated in DVD Barbara & Alison





Reciprocity demonstrated in DVD Neemia & Jocelyn





Reciprocity demonstrated in DVD Christie & Niharaka

- One story
- Listen for the reciprocity
- Share examples of reciprocity from the story of this relationship

