

*AMPLIFY THE VOICE OF MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS:
How Disability and Mental Health Consumer/Psychiatric Survivor
Communities Can Create Change Together!*

Executive Summary:

We would like to invite you to bring this proven training workshop to your local community. Together we can introduce tested strategies that have increased inclusion, collaboration, and coalition-building between the cross-disability and mental health consumer/psychiatric survivor communities as well as between agency allies and the public.

We all know that countless studies show people diagnosed with psychiatric disabilities experience a severe level of discrimination, disempowerment and exclusion -- as have all people with various disabilities.

A model developed in Lane County, Oregon is proving how the cross-disability and mental health consumer/psychiatric survivor communities can successfully unite together to break down barriers, assist Olmstead implementation, locate and unite allies, and educate the public.

Target Audiences:

- Individual participants in groups and/or staff of agencies that advocate for, support or serve individuals with disabilities.
- Leaders and emerging leaders in the cross-disability movement
- Individuals who self-identify as mental health consumers or psychiatric survivors.

Topics covered include:

- History of the disability and mental health consumer/psychiatric survivor communities organizing together.
- Community Organizing 101 including the basics of coalition building.
- Conflict resolution and mediating differences between beliefs.
- Building independence through fundraising for your coalition work.
- Uniting to educate the public using town forums and educational events.

Training Outcomes:

- Train key staff and participants of cross-disability groups, such as centers for independent living, about cultural competency for inclusion of people with mental disabilities.
- Identify, empower and support new and emerging leaders in both communities, especially youth.
- Broaden mental health consumer voice, inclusion, leadership and participation among allied groups and agencies in the mental health and disability fields.

Since May 2007 the Opal Network has supported emerging leaders by providing community organizing training for mental health consumers and psychiatric survivors. The workshop described here is based off a series of ongoing, successful events held in Oregon by the Opal Training Institute.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, please contact David W. Oaks, Executive Director, MindFreedom International, ph: 541-345-9106 or e-mail oaks@mindfreedom.org.