DEFINING PEER ADVOCACY

• Peer Advocacy looks different
  • Mutual support
  • Peer run groups
  • Peer support
• Our Values and Mission
  • How we define the our Advocates
BRIEF HISTORY OF PEER ADVOCACY

- Mental health movement was a political advocacy, group and individual empowerment phenomenon
  - Psychiatric patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals in 1970s
  - In response people organized- self help groups & mutual support groups thus forming a consumer / survivor movement
  - 1990s- Consumer Operated Service Programs (COSP) “Nothing About Us, Without Us”
  - 21st century brought about an increase in peer support services
  - Formalize training for Peer Support specialists
PEER ADVOCACY IN SKID ROW

• Brief history of Skid Row

• Peer Advocacy in Skid Row today
THE PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

- Critical time intervention
  - The first 90 days
- Housing the most vulnerable
- Peer Advocate component
  - The Peer Advocate Role
CULTURAL & SYSTEM NAVIGATORS

- Peer theory - Mead
- Individual Empowerment Theory - Keiffer
- Recovery approach
Anthony will share his narrative and experiences as a Peer Advocate . . .
THE EXPANSION

- Expanded Advocate team
- Re-engage residents who have been housed
- Provide Peer Advocate Groups
- Worked on a Peer Advocate Zine - “I Got You”
- Micro-documentary – “I got you- Peer Advocate Perspectives”
- Peer Advocate training manual
“LOVE BEGINS AT HOME, IT IS NOT HOW MUCH WE DO . . . BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO THAT ACTION.” - MOTHER TERESA
THANK YOU TO THE CONRAD HILTON FOUNDATION FOR MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.
REFERENCES


