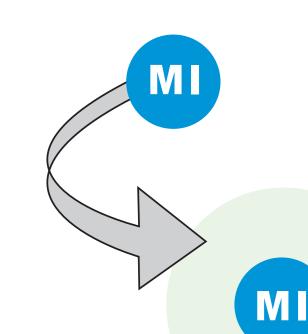
Disability of Mental Illness: The Evolution



A Person develops a serious mental illness.

Shame: Missed opportunity to develop life skills & learn from life experiences. Fearful, fears losing dreams and sense of self.



Early Secondary Results: Poor decisions increase Harm; family/friends support exhausted; substance abuse; increase sense of powerlessness; relinquishes dreams; loss of self.



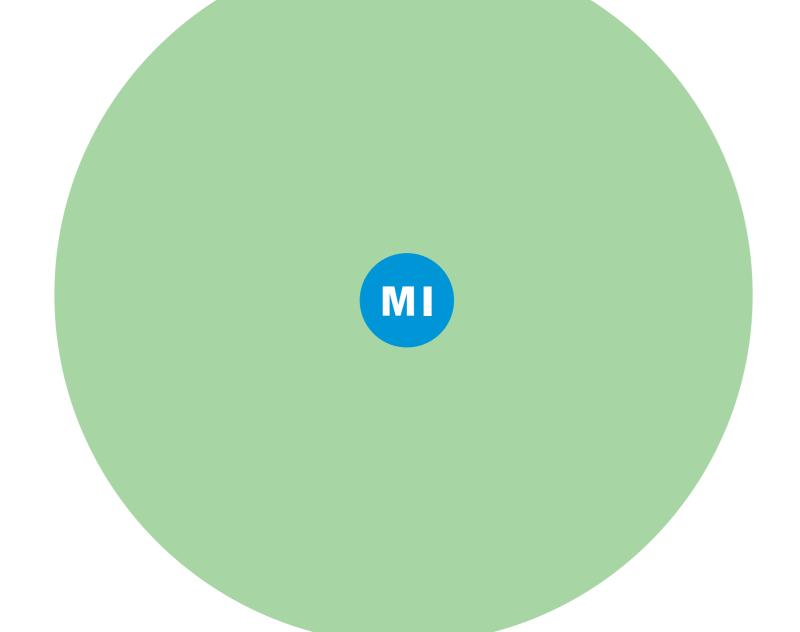
latrogenic Effect: Hierarchical systems with client on bottom; culture of control; power-thefts; low expectations; medication side effects.



Social Factors: Effect of poverty, oppression, discrimination, stigma, segregation, no employment experience, diminished expectations, dismisses own strengths.



Acceptance of Status Quo: By treatment providers, family, support system and the person, passive acceptance of perception of disability.



Client and others accept belief that the Disability is the illness: Client has lost hopes and dreams and a sense of self. Choices often result in increased harm in lives of the client and others. Too often we see the disability, not the client. And we believe that disability is the direct result of the mental illness. When we understand that much of the disability is the direct result of a client's personal, familial, societal and treatment provider's reaction to a mental illness, our belief in the power of a client's journey is heartened.

It becomes clear that there is much we can do to support this person's recovery process. We have approaches that can support a client overcome each of the factors identified here, and to recover.

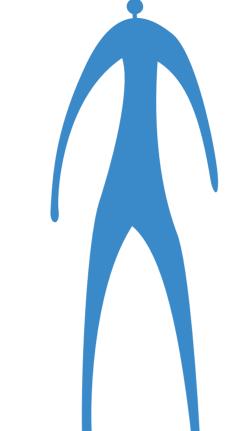


The Mental Illness



The Disability

Recovery: The Journey



This person has a strong sense of self and values the process of recovery. Choices result in leading a meaningful and contributing life. Has a life plan with hopes and dreams.

Recovery is central to life. Actively engaged in making difficult choices and taking actions that result in increased personal strengths and abilities.

Actively works on personal Recovery process. Abilities more prominent than disabilities. Has choice making skills that bring more strengths than harm to the person's life.

Identifies self as in Recovery. Engaged in the process of change, begins to take actions and assesses personal choice making skills with attempts to improve. Questions beliefs about disability. Believes the future can be different, has some hopes and dreams.

Client considers Recovery and acceptance of responsibility for self. Beginning awareness that choices can produce harm or personal strengths. Begins to feel hopeful.

Client, and others, accept belief that the Disability is the illness. Client has lost hopes and dreams and a sense of self. Choices often result in increased harm in the lives of the client and others.

The Journey

Clients begin to believe that they are more than the disability – more than an illness and its accompanying personal, family, and treatment effects. They begin to have hope and accept responsibility for their actions and choices. They actively work to make choices to help them fulfill their dreams. They begin to recognize themselves, their strengths and their recovery as unique and sacred.

The Definition of Recovery
The individual's process of selfdiscovery that involves healing
physically and emotionally as s/he grows. It
includes redefining a sense of self, and
recovering important life roles, overcoming
the challenge of the disability. The process
of Recovery is different for every individual,
yet shares many essential components, and
thus is a common human experience.



The Self



The Disability

These were designed by Dr. Steve Wilson. To access these and other materials, you can go to http://www.telecarecorp.com.