



SPECTRUM

Society for Community Living

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October 17, 2005

UPCOMING:

PATH Facilitators Training Workshop

Monday October 24th & Tuesday October 25th

Location: The Canadian Memorial Church and Centre For Peace.
1825 West 16th Avenue, Vancouver

Times: 9-5

"...exciting, creative, colorful futures planning for families, organizations and schools to build caring "including" places to live, work & learn. Path - is an eight step problem solving approach involving dreaming and thinking backwards." Diversity Press

Person Centred Planning is a keyword in best-practice service provision, but how do we ensure that the person being served is really expressing what they want? P.A.T.H. stands for Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope and is a methodology developed by Jack Pierpoint, Marsha Forrest and John O'Brien as a way of focusing on the individual's dreams, creating practical steps and time-lines to get one from "here" to "there", and identifying ways to stay strong and allies that can support one in the pursuit of one's dreams...

"PATH is a creative planning tool which starts in the future and works backwards to an outcome of first (beginning) steps that are possible and positive. It is excellent for team building. It has been used to mediate conflicts. It is loved by people who actually want to change the ways we currently work. ... PATH is not for the faint of heart. It is very results oriented."

Unlike traditional planning meetings, which are often problem-based and look back at the history of the person's challenges, the P.A.T.H. process begins with the person's dreams and aspirations, and then moves to focus on what's Possible and Positive in the foreseeable future. Once future goals have been expressed in a concrete way, we go back to the present and then work forwards step by step in a solution centred way.

Things that people like about the process are that it's visual as opposed to written, so it works well for people with low literacy levels, as well as creating a certain energy and freedom - colour and dynamic, open-ended pictures that can be added to as the vision clarifies. The person who is at the centre of the meeting is not the focus of a group of people writing notes about their behaviours and challenges, but is in the actual centre of a circle of supporters, family and friends, who remind them of dreams they've expressed and of things they've enjoyed and could build on. They have a veto power; their advocates, friends and family are welcomed, usually with food and music, to a place that is comfortable for them all.

P.A.T.H. is a co-facilitated process. During this two day training session participants will be introduced to the P.A.T.H. method and will experience facilitating and drawing PATHs for each other in small groups. The intention is that each participant will experience having their own PATH done.

The sessions will utilise materials from Inclusion Press and each participant will receive a P.A.T.H. workbook for future reference.

Co-Leaders of the training will be Aaron Johannes and Anne Marie Fulop. Aaron was introduced to the P.A.T.H. format while working for the Vela Microboard Association and traveling in rural areas with Linda Perry, a much respected P.A.T.H. facilitator, working with various teams and individuals who had challenges and dreams and families and friends. Aaron and Anne Marie then studied with Joanne Proctor through H.O.M.E.S.'s excellent P.A.T.H. training, and have gone on to do countless PATHs for individuals served by Spectrum, self-advocates, businesses and individuals who have heard about the process or experienced it during planning for a family member. They have worked together and with other partners. In 1999 Aaron was grateful to have the opportunity to spend a day at a P.A.T.H. workshop for facilitators, led by Marsha Forest and Jack Pierpoint at the annual T.A.S.H. conference in Boston. Both Anne Marie and Aaron believe that this is a process that is empowering and enlightening for all participants.

Aaron is the Director of Community Based Programs and Anne Marie is the Coordinator of Human Resources at Spectrum Society for Community Living.

The sessions are limited to 12 participants, who are asked to attend both days and to forego cell phones while together. Confidentiality will be expected around anything heard or expressed in the small group sessions.

A recommended donation of \$100 per participant is suggested; Spectrum employees may apply their 2005 training allowance to this workshop

No interested person will be turned away for financial reasons.

Phone Judy at the office (323-1433 #101) to register.