

Carolyn Russell, PhD

Dr. Russell has worked in the behavioral healthcare industry for 17 years and has received numerous awards and recognition for her work. In 2001, Dr. Russell was hired to implement a legislatively mandated pilot in NE Florida which she later named the FloridaSDC Program. Dr. Russell was selected for the position by representatives from the SDC Taskforce and approved for hire by the grass-roots community advisory board. With the grass-roots advisory board, she successfully built the program with no pre-existing blue-prints for such a program and limited financial resources. With the oversight of participants and local advocates, and the program was the top winner of the 2003 Eli Lilly Social Integration Award. Based on the success of her work, in 2004, the Florida Legislature gave permission for expansion of the pilot to other parts of the state, permission to test the concepts with children, and permission to apply for federal demonstration status. Dr. Russell has served on a number of state and national advisory committees that relate to self-directed care for people with psychiatric disabilities. Currently, she is working with the National Foundation for Self-Directed Care, Inc. as a policy consultant. The National Foundation for Self-Directed Care, Inc. will be developing training, standards, and other guides for use with self-determination programs for people with psychiatric disabilities throughout the nation. This organization has been founded by the original group of advocates to assure that lessons learned as self-directed care for people with psychiatric disabilities are accurately documented and shared throughout the nation.

Jacki McKinney, M.S.W.

Jacki McKinney, M.S.W., is a survivor of trauma, addiction, homelessness and the psychiatric and criminal justice systems. She is a family advocate specializing in issues affecting African-American women and their children and is a founding member of the National People of Color Consumer/Survivor Network. Ms. McKinney has been a consultant and advisor to the Center for Mental Health Services and is well known for her moving presentations to national audiences on issues such as seclusion/restraint, intergenerational family support and minority issues in public mental health. The National Mental Health Association honored Jacki McKinney with the Clifford Beers award for her work on behalf of people with mental disabilities. Ms. McKinney is also a board member of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law.

Patricia E. Deegan, PhD

Patricia E. Deegan PhD is an activist in the disability rights movement, a writer, lecturer and researcher. Pat is also an independent consultant with Pat Deegan & Associates, LLC. She has many published papers, some of which have been translated into 9 languages. Pat has lectured on the topics of self-directed recovery and empowerment around the world, and has made three films on disability related topics. Pat's current projects include researching a recovery-based approach to using psychiatric medications at the University of Kansas, developing recovery-based competences for mental health practitioners, helping to restore forgotten cemeteries at state hospitals, helping consumers win money for new housing through the sale of state hospitals and developing technical assistance materials for people affected by the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision. Pat is a psychiatric survivor, having first been diagnosed with schizophrenia as a teenager. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Duquesne University in 1984.