Hindsight in 20/20: The History of Tennessee’s CPRS Program from the Peer Perspective

Sheryl McCormick, CPRS
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Bill Anthony
The psychiatric rehabilitation movement lost its founder this week when Bill Anthony passed away at the age of 77. Despite his humble, unassuming demeanor, Bill was an essential transformative force in getting the field of psychiatry and the broader mental health system to look beyond people’s diagnoses and what were considered to be inevitably low prognoses and to embrace the principles and practices associated with psychiatric rehabilitation and, ultimately, recovery.

While the ‘mental patients’ of that time were routinely told (and too many still are) that they would never be able to work, get married, own a home or more broadly make good decisions, Bill’s work ensured that ‘patients’ were seen as people who could identify personal goals and acquire the skills and put in place the supports to achieve them.
Patricia E. Deegan is a disability-rights advocate, psychologist and researcher living in the United States. She is known as an advocate of the mental health recovery movement and is an international speaker and trainer in the field of mental health. Deegan also co-founded M-POWER.
Mary Ellen Copeland is an author, educator and mental health recovery advocate. Her work is based on her studies of how people deal with life challenges every day, and how they go on to do the things they want to do and be the kind of people they want to be. Her focus is on shifting the system of mental health care and all health care toward personal empowerment, self-help, prevention and recovery through natural supports, education, training, and research.

Over the past twenty-five years, Dr. Copeland has reached millions of people through her books, media and lectures, empowering people to use the techniques and strategies that others told her had worked for them in their own lives, and more recently to use the Wellness Recovery Action Plan as their personal guide to feeling the way they want to feel and making their life the way they want it to be.

Mary Ellen developed WRAP in 1997 with a group of people who had lived experience of serious mental health challenges. WRAP is now being used by people and in groups around the world. WRAP has been extensively studied and is listed in the federal National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.
Sheryl McCormick and the McCormick Gang
Steve and Liz Petty
Lisa Ragan
What does it take to create Recovery in Tennessee

- Hope
- Tenacity
- Perseverance
- Peers
- Hope