

In tribute to William Anthony, collected by Lori Ashcraft



Photo Credit: Center for
Psychiatric Rehabilitation

William Anthony passed away in 2020. As the founder of Boston University's Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation, he is often credited with the inspirational leadership that guided the mental health field through paradigm shifts to ensure the possibility that individuals with psychiatric conditions could regain valued roles in the community. Below you will find in the words of other pioneers and leaders in the field, the impact Bill Anthony had on them and those around them.

Introduction by Lori Ashcraft

I was honored when asked to write a tribute for Bill Anthony. Bill and I worked closely together, usually writing article for publication, sometimes just exploring new ideas, or new ways to approach the learning processes, always searching for new ways to present information that would inspire readers to dig deeper; deeper into the literature and deeper into their own being, always in search of the compassion required to do this work effectively. Sometimes Camille joined in, offering suggestions, or making fun of us for getting stuck in our own ruts.

I let a few days go by before taking up the pen, waiting for the necessary inspiration to do right by Bill – to write from a place of bottomless truth and compassion in order to honor the amazing human being that he was. Finally, I started writing. (You'll come across the piece I contributed later in this tribute.) Then I stopped. I wasn't sure what to write next, so I waited for the next flash of inspiration.

It was in that space of waiting that I realized why I didn't have anything else to say. The rest of the story was not mine to write. It was to be written by others who knew and loved Bill. Together we could write a much better symphony than I could on my own. So, I opened the door to others, offering them the opportunity to add their voices in remembrance of Bill and the legacy he left us.

That's what you'll find in this tribute – many voices that harmonize beautifully as the story unfolds. You'll find some common themes repeated – perhaps the most poignant being references to Bill's love of the poetry of Robert Frost, whether it be the telling of *taking down walls* or *taking the less traveled path* at crucial choice points.

I can tell you a few things about the voices in this tribute. Without exception, they are all “*wall taker-downers*”, and they are walkers of the “*less chosen path*” –always in the interest of supporting the amazing, courageous, enduring people we serve, until those people could rise on their own, and fly on bent and battered wings, toward their own destiny, often looking over their shoulders at us, knowing that we had their back if they needed anything further from us.

So we wish you well as you read these tributes. We hope the love we have all received from Bill will seep into your hearts, giving you the courage and compassion needed to do the real work of recovery.

Contributors:

- Courtenay Harding
- Art Dell Orto
- Lori Ashcraft
- Gene Johnson
- Edye Swartz
- Dori Hutchinson
- Harvey Rosenthal
- Marianne Farkas
- Andy Bernstein
- Sally Rogers
- David Bucciferro
- Kevin Ann Huckshorn

Courtenay Harding

Art Dell Orto

When Lori called to ask for small write-up about Bill, I (Courtenay) was delighted. Having just written up a longer description of him and the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation for my own forthcoming book on things that seem to work and don't for people struggling to get their lives back, I thought that I would call Art Dell Orto. Art was the former chair of our department at Boston University and also former Senior Director of Bill's Center as was I. So, I called him up and we had a long talk about the early days often forgotten. I was curious as to how Bill got to Boston and developed his vision about psychiatric rehab and the work to get it implemented.

Bill's parents ran a summer camp in Buffalo, New York for kids who needed rehabilitation. Almost everyone knows that when Bill worked at Walter Reed Hospital with soldiers returning

from the Viet Nam war in the late '60s, he noticed that the patients with physical wounds received all sorts of rehabilitation while those with psychiatric problems did not. He went on to Southern Illinois University to teach traditional psychology. In the meanwhile, Art Dell Orto was running a small program in the BU School of Education. He heard about this sharp young professor through his publications and offered Bill a job at BU. Bill liked what was going on in the program and that a fellow psychologist from his hometown in Buffalo, named Bob Carkhuff, had also moved to Massachusetts. He resigned his job, sold his house, packed up all his belongings, and drove east with his dear and patient wife, Camille.

Upon arrival, he found that his new position had not yet been approved by the university's Board of Trustees. Art went to the university president, John Silber and pleaded his case. Silber said and I quote, "Well, he better be good!" Bill, of course, developed psychiatric rehabilitation into a field that helped people get their lives back! The year after he moved, the program moved to BU's Sargent College of Allied Health Professions and became a department with Art as the Chair. The Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation was opened in 1979. The current Sargent's name is College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Bill had a commanding presence with his height and calm voice. He listened to everyone. His first funded grant was rehabilitation for the hearing impaired. Then, he ran across Judi Chamberlin, an activist for fair treatment for the Ex-Patient Movement and Self-Help. In the '70s, it was a chaotic time with ex-patients picketing the annual meetings of the American Psychiatric Association, yelling and screaming insults. They were fiercely angry at the so-called treatments which they and a multitude of others had received. Bill did not slam the door as others had done. He gave Chamberlin an office and quietly listened. She became a major change agent across the U.S. He listened to many others and had attended to his professors' lectures while a student in school. He was trained in humanistic psychology. He heard about active, reflective listening from Rogers, and supporting a sense of purpose and meaning from Frankl as well as meeting basic needs from Maslow. He heard from Carkhuff about respect, empathy, immediacy. Those values made sense to him and were deeply embedded in his ideas and vision. Models of care were developed by his team, which always included people with the lived experience, across the ensuing years. The Center has always been supported by grants which reflected these ingredients. Research, training with manuals, and coaching underpinned it all and went international. Bill turned out to be much "better than good!" He and his team made major contributions helping to reclaim lives across the whole world. He never stopped listening and expanding his rehabilitation vision.

One of my first memories of Bill Anthony took place in Phoenix Arizona when I was watching a recording of him talking at a NAMI conference. His reputation preceded him. I was transfixed as I listened to him tell parents that their family members could recover from mental illnesses. This was in the early nineties, and the only time recovery was mentioned was when it was used to refer to substance disorders. I anticipated the scoffing, the arguing, the headshaking, the eye-rolling that would follow his presentation, but it never came. There was something about Bill, his sincerity, his humility, and his willingness to be vulnerable, that caused even the hardest head to listen and try to believe in his message.

I wasn't one of the hard heads, quite the contrary. I was trying to manage my own symptoms of severe depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and a few other things. If there was a way to recover, I was all ears. I didn't know what recovery was, but after listening to Bill, I knew I didn't have it. I was intimidated by my symptoms, afraid to make any fast move for fear of sending myself into a tailspin of despair, spiraling downward. I was bolstered by several medications that helped manage symptoms but did not bring about this thing that Bill called recovery.

I didn't know it at the time, but this was the beginning of my healing process, and the launching of my personal and professional commitment to recovery for myself and anyone else who would give me the time of day. If they could benefit from the knowledge that there was a whole new ground to stand on, I wanted to assure them that they could have a much better life that included employment, family reconciliation, inspiring relationships, and a community of likeminded peers. I wanted them to know that they didn't have to travel alone. There were many of us. Peers. We could travel together and support each other as we navigated our quest for a better life filled with hope and love.

Inspired by Bill's writing and research, I began my own pursuit of recovery for myself and others. I learned a lot about the power of focusing on the whole person, not just problems, but strengths, wisdom, and other virtues that could be brought to bear against the vicissitudes of mental illnesses.

The next time I heard Bill speak was at an evening workshop at the end of a harrowing day. I was exhausted but didn't want to miss the opportunity to hear Bill speak again. About halfway through his presentation, he described a process that I had learned in my own work, but it remained preconscious, yet to be articulated. When I heard Bill speak it, it resonated so strongly with me that my brain wobbled with recognition and in spite of my exhaustion, my spirit ignited. And all he said was this: "When you catch a glimpse of the well part of a person, you need to reach in and grab ahold of it and don't let go."

That, my friends, is how we begin the recovery process for our brothers and sisters who still suffer unnecessarily from the carnage of mental illnesses. No fancy protocols that sound impressive to funding sources; No long lists of precise steps to take; No elaborate prerequisites. Just one person who has the courage to love and to believe in another enough to, “reach in, grab ahold of the well part, and not let go.”

Many of us see Bill as the father of the recovery movement that spawned the development of the game-changing peer movement, both of which stand on the shoulders of the psychiatric rehabilitation principles and practices that Bill championed. However, Bill did not accept this title. Rather, he referred to himself as, “The messenger of recovery”, and as a strong believer in the ability of peers to make a life-changing difference for all of us.

Gene Johnson

Some brief moments with Bill had a mysterious way of opening a creative space that refined and often redefined my point of view. Many times, a one-line comment from Bill changed everything...a comment that I would often quote later as a foundation for an innovation that would change our minds and our experience. Here’s some one-line comments that I remember.

Sitting in Bill’s humble office at the Center I shared my plan to create a credentialing process for organizations to be accredited as recovery-based. Bill had written an article “Implementing Recovery-Oriented Evidence Based programs,” *Community Mental Health Journal*, 2005. It was significant and relevant since I was leading an organization with the name Recovery Innovations. The article identified key recovery values and then suggested how those values could be realized in several program dimensions. I also knew that Bill had been a member of the CARF Board and so I figured he would appreciate the development of recovery standards and accreditation for organizations. Bill listened to my plan briefly and then said, “Gene, you are the guy that says you can create the future. Are you now saying that others can’t create theirs?” Suddenly, I got it. My mind was disrupted and I realized from Bill’s poignant question that recovery is promoted by inspiration not compliance.

NASPD had been given the task to write a training manual for state hospital superintendents. Members from around the country were appointed to a committee to brainstorm. It was my turn to speak. I said we should be taking on the task of how to close state hospitals not developing a training manual for their leadership. Bill agreed with my remark but then said, “as

long as state hospitals exist, they can be a place where recovery can start.” Wow, right on! Bill had an uncanny way of politely acknowledging the way things are but without hesitation suggesting a platform for a new tomorrow.

In 2006, Bill wrote an editorial in *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, “An Elephant in the Living Room.” Bill’s challenge to the field was that we “redouble our efforts to focus seriously on the incompatibility of force and recovery...Let us use our most creative minds to discuss this elephant in the living room, rather than spend time trying to regulate or reduce the use of force in the hopes of making environments that use force more humane. This incompatibility must see the light of day. There is no such thing as ‘forced recovery.’” I knew he was right. That one-line comment, “no such thing as ‘forced recovery’” gave fuel to my declaration of “zero restraint” in all Recovery Innovations centers. Bill shared with me the push back and in some cases anger he had received from many after his piece was published. So, as Bill and I chatted about what could be the next steps to force elimination, he proposed “no force first.” Brilliant! Again, starting with what is Bill made a declaration for a transformed future. Quickly in the hotel lobby we listed “no-force-first” principles that were soon implemented by many and described in “The Development and Implementation of No-Force-First as a Best Practice,” *Psychiatric Services*,” 2012.

As my mentor, Bill often advised me “don’t get crosswise with your Board of Directors.” He backed up this one-line comment by citing examples of CEOs who had been canned by their Boards. He didn’t want me to be one of the fallen. I had an idea. I invited Bill to become a Director on my Board to help by observing and coaching. I was thrilled when he said “yes” and got busy promoting our recovery vision. Bill always was willing to do the work.

Thank you, Bill, for your profound wisdom and courage. You have changed our world.

Edye Swartz

In the early 1990’s I attended a conference in upstate New York. I was sitting at a table with a number of NYS Office of Mental Health executives and we were waiting for the keynote address. My table was all the way in the back so as it began, I turned around and up to the podium came this guy named Bill Anthony- who I really didn’t know. He was tall, thin, and blond haired and looked very distinguished, likeable, and believable. As I listened to him explain about what he thought the mental health system should offer people I was becoming increasingly engaged and even awed by what he had to say when all of a sudden, he said the

simplest statement. He said, “people who experienced psychiatric disabilities wanted and deserved to have the same things in life that everyone else in society wanted and had a life of satisfaction and purpose”. He also made it clear that it was our job as mental health workers to make sure our system offered those who came to services, the opportunities to realize those dreams.

That simple but oh so powerful statement changed my life and changed my practice. I then embarked on a 30-year journey to refocus myself, my own practice, and our system to a recovery oriented system of care...one that served those who accessed care and supported people in setting and attaining their own goals- not the system or society’s goals- and offered the very skills and supports that people tell us they need to have the life of purpose that they desire and deserve. I then was lucky enough to be trained multiple times by Bill’s Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation trainers as New York adopted psychiatric rehabilitation principles and practices throughout the 1990’s and 2000’s.

Years later I was privileged to present Bill Anthony with the NYAPRS Lifetime Achievement award and was so taken with his humility, honesty, and integrity as he chatted with me before and after the award presentation about not his work but my work...which was what he was most interested in. Although I did not know him well, it was so clear to me that Bill Anthony was a very special man who believed in the good in every human being and truly believed in the words he espoused. He believed in the resiliency and power of every human being regardless of their label or symptoms or place in society. Now, in semi-retirement, and providing leadership and management consultation, I am most proud to have been one of the many who were transformed by Bill Anthony and Psychiatric Rehabilitation and as I look back on my own career I am proudest of the moments when I was able to operationalize some of the concepts that Bill promulgated in that keynote so many years ago. As my own career begins to slow, if I can continue to pass along any of Bill and his colleagues’ beliefs and ideas to the next generation of leaders, I feel I have done my work! the movement of those with lived experience of mental health challenges and their families across sectors and around the world.

Dori Hutchinson

I am such a lucky human. Bill Anthony was my teacher, my mentor, and my boss for 27 years. He changed my life in so many immeasurable ways, but mostly, he changed me. Bill had a heart for fighting injustices-especially how people with serious mental illnesses were pushed away, shamed away, disregarded, disrespected, and devalued. He saw how the system stole hope and heaped great suffering on people with serious mental illnesses. What did he do? Truly do?

He shared his brilliant mind, his warm soul, and his hope for a life full of meaning, respect and love for all people who live and recover from mental illnesses and all the prejudice and discrimination that accompanies these experiences. His whole life he walked a path as disruptive innovator, and he invited me to join him. He taught me, he mentored me, and he coached me to listen deeply, to let my hear truly hear and witness all these injustices and then he encouraged me and urged me to do something about it. One particularly empowering lesson came soon after our dear colleague, Karen Danley had died unexpectedly in 1998. Karen had received a SAMHSA grant to train National Consumer Leaders in the self-help movement. As a group, they were outraged that they had not received the grant and that the Center did. I was unaware of this anger when Bill asked me to do the training for Karen. The Consumer leaders came to Boston, and they organized. They walked out of the training and demanded that the grant be re-awarded to them as it was about them. They were very angry, and I did what Bill had taught me to do. I listened. It was a very hard day, I felt a bit beat up and as I cried about the day with Bill that night, on the steps of the Center, feeling very sorry for myself, I will never forget his response to me. He said, "They have a right to be angry, Dori, they have every right to be angry". It was a life changing moment for me. Bill with his profoundly deep value of personhood, helped liberate me and empower me to be an ally, a collaborator, and an activist for change in my work. He led with his heart always and as a result, he was beloved by me and so many others. He was my extraordinary teacher, and he will always remain the person I aspire to be. Bill's favorite poet was Robert Frost and how eloquently Bill lived these lines, "Two roads diverged in the wood, and I, I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference".

Harvey Rosenthal

My first connection with Bill was the excitement I felt in reading his seminal introduction to psychiatric rehabilitation, finding that he was the first 'expert authority' to focus on addressing the challenges associated with disability and social disadvantage rather than on diagnoses, deficits and symptoms. I began my work supporting people with a mix of developmental and psychiatric disabilities in the mid '70's and saw that the psychologists who ran the show have more hope for change than the psychiatrists I would encounter several years later when, working at the local state hospital. As we all know, they offered little to no hope for a future based on autonomy, recovery and community success. Bill changed all that when he introduced the mind-blowing concepts of goals, skills and supports to our 'field.'

The first opportunity I had to see him in person was when then OMH Commissioner Surles brought him around to speak to VR counselors where he humbly said "my mom's always asking

me why people think I'm a big shot. I told her that all I did was to apply basic principles of rehabilitation that were commonly applied to all people with disabilities to people with psychiatric disabilities."

He certainly didn't look like the groundbreaking pioneer he was to all of us and our world. Actually, I thought he looked more like a basketball coach or guidance counselor 😊.

Later, I invited him to give a keynote address at one of our NYAPRS Conference in the "Borscht Belt", in this case Kutsher's Resort. I had also invited him to sit on a panel with the mighty title "What Lies Ahead." When it was my turn, I told our community that the time they've been spending 'not working' was not an expression of failure but a time of learning and preparation for jobs that would give them the chance to support others. I was embarrassed when several people laughed but Bill didn't and went on to support that view with a humble authority that meant the world to me.

The last time I saw Bill was when a group of us NYAPRS folk including Edye Schwartz, Chacku Mathai, Oscar Jimenez-Solomon and Tanya Stevens were invited by Marianne to join a birthday gathering in his honor. I still can't find the precious photo someone took of all of us and Bill that night...but I will someday.

Bill had a way of making the revolutionary sound like simple common sense. His support and warmth meant a good deal to so many like me. Thanks so much Lori for this opportunity to share these wonderful memories.

Marianne Farkas

To his family, William Anthony was the best Dad and granddad you could have! To me, he was a wonderful mentor to a young graduate student and then became a close colleague for over 40 years. He gave me the courage to be the best I could be and the supportive space/opportunity to take risks, to try new ideas, even if they did not always succeed, in my attempts to understand and deliver what it took to shift the way services were conducted around the globe. But who was he to the field?

Bill Anthony arrived at Boston University before there was an IASPRS. Before there was a real field of psychiatric rehabilitation. At that time, many folks were in long stay psychiatric hospitals. Mental Health services spent a lot of time working on overcoming "treatment resistance", "amotivation" and mental illnesses, for which "clearly-there could be no cure". A

time when the diagnosis of schizophrenia meant progressive deterioration. Bill, however, had the gift of sight—to see beyond all that—to what mattered most.

This was a time when psychosocial rehabilitation was mainly an anti -psychiatry movement, that stemmed from a deep sense of injury --perpetrated by long stay psychiatric hospitals. Hospitals which incarcerated, controlled, contained, and experimented on hundreds of thousands of people. Bill took a leadership role in helping to define what psychosocial rehabilitation WAS- instead of what it was not. He led us, in spending the late 70's to early 90's, committed to the premise that everyone had the same aspirations—a decent home, a decent job, friends and a community. So simple a statement--but so powerful a notion that it shocked clinicians, administrators, families—and even people with lived experience themselves-- and so, it needed to be said in simple terms, scientifically, philosophically-- over and over again.

What made Bill stand out was not only that he had the decency to see the simple fact that people with mental health conditions were not “other” or separate-- but “us”- not *like* us but us...he also had the intellectual rigor to bring us together to work on what that meant and how to achieve it. As psychiatric rehabilitation became better understood, and we were able to create better methods for training the workforce in the systematic processes he instigated, he realized it was not enough.

Mike Hogan was the former Chair of the 2003 President's New Freedom Commission, which officially reoriented America's Mental Health Services to a recovery focus. On hearing of Bill's passing he remarked: “I believe that Bill Anthony was more responsible than anyone else in the world, for defining and advancing the notion that recovery *should* be the vision of mental health services”.

Bill always listened. Most particularly he listened to people with lived experience. And what he heard, was that there was something larger than services and larger than the tools of rehabilitation. Most people would have become defensive as they listened to people saying that what they had spent their life working on was perhaps not all that there was. He, on the other hand, sought out and heard the voices of the leaders of the consumer movement and began fleshing out the ideas of recovery, always respectful of what belonged in the hands of people with lived experience and the role that “fellow travelers”, as we called ourselves, should play. In the debate that followed the emergence of the vision of recovery and “who owned” the notion of recovery —people with lived experience or professionals... He always said the role of the professional in any change process. is to open the door ...to share the resources and opportunities that came their way --with those standing outside the door...and that is exactly what he did.

Bill Anthony provided resources and support so that Judi Chamberlin could do her work. He ASKED her what she needed—and then gave it to her. An office. A fax machine. A telephone with Long Distance service. And then left her to do what she did best. Be the leader she was of the ex-patient/survivor movement. He suggested that Dan Fisher and Judi write a grant to support the work they were hoping to be able to do. Then he gave them support and the concrete resources they need to mount the grant (i.e., someone to help them organize it; type it up; edit it) & that resulted in the National Empowerment Center, still going strong now, 28 years later. When Harold Maio wrote to him to say that his writings did not reflect his ideals—he and Harold, a person with lived experience who had attended one of his talks-- with no other position or official authority, began a 15-year friendship, in which Harold edited his papers and gave him feedback.

Bill Anthony was many things. A decent human being with the vision, tenacity and skill to advance simple ideas that were incredibly complex and at the heart of what we all do. His favorite poet was Robert Frost. The Mending Wall was one of his favorite poems. I'd like to close by quoting 2 stanzas from it:

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast....

.....

Before I built a wall, I'd ask to know
What I was walling in-- or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down....”

Bill Anthony spent his life tearing down the walls between us – and we will miss his gentle, fierce spirit and vision. ~ Marianne Farkas

Andy Bernstein

I—unlike most (all?) of the storytellers in this tribute--did not know Bill Anthony as a personal mentor or colleague. I came upon his work and the whole field of psychiatric rehabilitation virtually, to coopt a current concept, and in doing so, a very welcome world opened up to me. I

had earlier grown up and been trained as a psychologist, and then through my work at the NJ Self-Help Clearinghouse and CSP-NJ in the 1980's, I became involved as an ally, I suppose, in the mental health consumer/survivor/ex-patient movement. This resulted in my being quite a lonely practitioner of my original discipline, kind of 'out there' on that Robert Frost Road less traveled that Dori and others recall Bill so often referring to. But when I started reading Bill's work, the work of his many students and colleagues, and then meeting many of them (and you), I found a much more welcoming and spiritually syntonetic philosophical home. I felt validated, and encouraged by a set of values and a world view which was so clearly more in line with what I had come to know myself: *experiential knowledge* (thank you, Thomasina Borkman) which was based on my myriad encounters with people who had not been well served by traditional mental health services...people whose wisdom and courage were finally being seen as critical in guiding so many of us to become parts of solutions rather than problems. Bill never knew me, but his impact on me was profound, and a source of great comfort and inspiration. He even made me proud again to be a certain kind of psychologist.~
Andy Bernstein, PhD, CPRP

Sally Rogers

At the time of his retirement, I had worked with Bill for over 30 years--first as a Research Associate and then later as the Director of Research for the Center. Bill was always forward-thinking in his emphasis on what we call participatory research: that is, the inclusion of individuals with the lived experience of mental health conditions in all phases of the conceptualization and testing of innovative services. It was vital to Bill to listen the voices and opinions of individuals. More importantly, Bill wanted to hear their stories of recovery and in particular, how the Center could facilitate people's recovery journey. Bill advocated for inclusion of individuals with mental health conditions in all aspects of the Center, including research projects, training activities, and the services programs we ran. I believe that in listening to those voices and stories, Bill—and all of us at the Center—learned of the power that comes from one individual with a lived experience who enters into a mutually supportive relationship with another individual with a lived experience. This is the foundation of the peer support movement.

There are a couple of examples of Bill's advocacy that I believe positioned the Center to be supportive of self-help and consumer-run programs, the peer specialist movement, and the peer workforce.

First was his insistence in the 1980's that the Center's prestigious Advisory Council be composed of at least 50% of individuals with lived experience, or family members of individuals with lived experience. This decision was controversial at the time because the prevailing wisdom was that we needed "expert" advice from Ph.D. level researchers and scientists as well as senior mental health administrators and clinicians. Bill argued, successfully, that the stories and perceptions of those with lived experience should become our advisors so that they could make a significant contribution to the work of the Center.

One of the most significant ways in which Bill advocated for individuals with lived experience, taking on the authorities, so to speak, was for our first supported employment grant, back in the late 1980's. We had been awarded a highly coveted grant with a plan to use the Center as a base to help individuals with mental health conditions to "Choose-Get-Keep" competitive employment on the Boston University campus. Despite how things have advanced with the large and growing peer workforce and supported employment programs, this was a revolutionary idea at the time. We encountered resistance at every turn. The administration of Boston University was reluctant to agree that individuals with mental health conditions should be offered paid employment on their campus. Time was of the essence in this 3-year grant as we tried to overcome these hurdles and move forward to enroll folks in this employment program. Reaching an impasse, we finally landed up in the stately Office of the General Counsel at BU—i.e., the attorneys for the University. I had rarely, if ever, seen Bill get angry. But, on this day he did! After continued hurdles presented by the attorneys, Bill finally stood up to defend this innovative program—and he was an impressive presence. He explained that not allowing this research project to go forward would result in a black mark on the Center and the University. Most of all, he emphasized that individuals with mental health conditions had the right to the opportunities available in this project. He won the attorneys over—albeit, reluctantly, and the grant was able to proceed successfully. This early research project laid the groundwork for the Center to employ individuals as assistants and positioned us to further support the peer specialist movement as it began to evolve. (And, it must be said that the Center's long-term funding body, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research at the US Department of Health and Human Services, has enthusiastically supported our advocacy and inclusion of individuals with lived experiences and our work with peer specialists in several grants, the most recent of which included peer specialists as leaders of a community participation intervention and a coaching intervention for peer specialists experiencing role stress and burnout.)

In addition to these examples of Bill's advocacy are the several projects we conducted directly involving peer specialists. In the early 1990's, the Center participated in a multi-site study of consumer-run programs and subsequently conducted a systematic review of the peer

specialists. In addition, we have employed individuals with lived experiences in a variety of roles in research (and other) projects and as key advisors.

These are but a couple of salient examples that describe Bill's advocacy that ultimately advanced the peer specialist movement.

David Bucciferro

I was first introduced to Bill by John Sheets who always spoke about this man who transformed the world of mental health with compassion and brilliance. It took only one meeting with Bill and I realized what John meant. I was a simple government employee for the State of New York when I first met Bill but that did not matter to him, he treated me with the same respect he did everyone else in the room that day, and there were some pretty important players that had a lot more experience, gravitas and potential benefits for Bill than me. However, to Bill none of that really mattered to him, he still treated me with the same respect he gave to everyone else. Over the years we got to know each other in various ways and I always looked forward to having a reason to call Bill about a contract or a speaking engagement. I remember one time I had called Bill about the IPRT training effort I was about to commence and about 3 minutes into the conversation he stopped me and said you know what you're doing, trust yourself and do it. He ended that conversation saying you do not need a reason to call, any time you feel like chatting just reach out. Bill Anthony told me I could call and chat anytime. I think at that moment I realized this was not just a genius or some eccentric brilliant person too busy for others but a genuine person who cared deeply for other people and how honored I was to be one of those people. When Bill came to Albany one time to speak at a learning community I had the pleasure of hosting him, Mikal Cohen and John Sheets for dinner. I remember panicking about everything that day wanting this visit to be perfect. Even practicing what I might say or contribute to a conversation with those three heroes of mine. If you know Bill you know he would make you feel comfortable and as always a conversation with him was a learning opportunity that I felt unworthy but honored to be a part of. There were many times over the years I would tell people that the man standing at the dais with a set of index cards talking about empowerment and rehabilitation is changing the world and will continue to change the world even when he is gone. Bill left us way to early but his legacy lives on and when I think of Bill one thing that comes to mind are the poems of Robert Frost (if you know Bill you know why) and one of my favorite quotes that reminds me of how Bill must have thought when he decided to help create this thing called Psychiatric Rehabilitation.

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” Robert Frost

Thank you, Bill for all you gave to the world and selfishly to me.

Kevin Ann Huckshorn

I first learned about Dr. Anthony’s work when I was hired, as the statewide Nurse Consultant for all the state hospitals, in the Florida State Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Office, by Dr. Ivor Groves, in 1990. Dr. Groves told me, in my interview, that he had been following Anthony’s work and was bringing him to Florida to help the state learn about recovery from SMI and how to better help people with these conditions get better and recover their lives. At that point I looked up his work and learned so much. A colleague of mine, Linda Geisler and I then drafted a toolkit for all state staff titled “Manual for Recovery Oriented Services” that we referenced back to Bill and his work. This was in 1991.

I actually met Dr. Anthony, in 1992, when I had been promoted to Program Director and was running the state’s Broward County (District Ten) Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health services. I kept hearing about Dr. Anthony and his amazing work to help people recover from serious mental illness. He had been assigned to Broward County, one of three Florida counties. He was so impressive, when I met him. He was so personable and asked me all kinds of questions about Broward County and our challenges and introduced me to his team. We all worked together until I left in 1996 but what I learned from Dr. Anthony and his team guided me going forward.

In 2001 I was hired on as the Director for NASMHPD’s National Technical Assistance Center and I saw and worked with Bill again over the next years. In 2004 I saw Bill at a SAMHSA meeting on peer support and he asked me, afterwards, if I would collaborate with him on a book about behavioral health leadership and what worked. I was so honored to be asked to participate in this work. Over the next year we interviewed a large number of behavioral health leaders, many of whom were state commissioners or others whom had served in key roles. It was such a great experience to work with Dr. Anthony and see how he developed a book from the early stages. To be true, I just participated and interviewed and transcribed my notes and sent to him. He was always so respectful of my findings and we almost never disagreed on the book’s narrative.

To be true, I was also so happy to learn, at the beginning, that the work on this book might lead to funding for scholarships for potential Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. The book was a lot of fun to develop and Bill made it more so.

I still cannot believe I helped to author a book with Dr. William Anthony! It was one of the greatest honors of my entire life. I learned so very much from him, especially the power of peer support. The last time I saw him was at a board meeting for Recovery Innovations back in the late 2000s. He had shared his diagnosis with me by then and we wrote on email back and forth for some time on his discovery of napping. I miss him very much.

Lynn Legere

Back in the days while I was still languishing in hospitals and day treatment centers, accepting my illnesses that had and would limit my life, there was an amazing confluence brewing. Just one block away from where I was often locked up, disruptive times and disruptive innovators were converging to shift the sands of our understanding of mental illness and supporting recovery.

I wasn't there in those early days as Bill Anthony and his colleagues in the newly emerging field of psychiatric rehabilitation shared tables with some of the pioneers of the consumer/survivor/ex-patient movement. I wasn't lucky enough to be a part of what must have been riveting conversations between the likes of Pat Deegan, Judi Chamberlin, Mo Armstrong, Isaiah Uliss, Ed Knight, Martin Koehler and Bill Anthony and colleagues.

But when fate or serendipity led me to the doors of the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, I would experience the results. The differences between what I left (traditional care of the time) and what I found at the Center was so dramatic, it's hard to describe it in mere words. Ironically, much of what was so divergent is standard fare today, at least in words and on paper. Things like "recovery" from mental health diagnoses, "recovery oriented" services, peer support, the voice of people with lived experience, choice, self-determination, etc. It sounds so quaint, and almost old fashion now. But it was very *new* fashion then and was so mind-blowing to me that it ignited and long-extinguished hope within and propelled me into a life that my wildest dream could not have imagined.

I would meet Bill and work at the Center in the early days of my recovery journey. In those years, I saw that Bill had this "something" that transcended any policy or practice and will never become "old fashioned." Even today, decades later, it's a rare quality.

Bill saw each and every person as inherently worthy of respect, of belief, of kindness and of understanding. There were no “Us” and “Them” in Bill’s world. He never tried to help “those people” have a better life, but instead, sought to describe ways to realize and operationalize that respect and belief in everyday practice.

This is what I carry with me from Bill – a piece of work not yet realized. He collaborated with some of our history’s great disruptive innovators, creating practices that are markedly different from those of the 1970’s and 1980’s. I had never heard the word “recovery” when I walked in the Center doors, and now it’s used so much as to render in meaningless. But to truly honor Bill’s legacy and contributions, both our provider and peer workforces must also embrace the core value of human worth and dignity that underpinned all his work. Policies and practices are meaningless without it.

Other remembrances of Bill Anthony:

<https://cpr.bu.edu/about/history/about-our-founder/>

<https://www.bu.edu/articles/2020/william-a-anthony-father-of-psychiatric-rehabilitation/>

<https://rsiwny.org/who-we-are/in-honor-of-bill-anthony.html>

<https://thereadingpost.com/2020/07/16/obituary-william-anthony-77/>