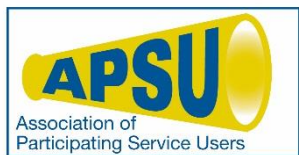


# Let Love In

## Fostering family participation in the AOD sector

Edita Kennedy (APSU Project Worker)  
Marg Quon (Family Member)



APSU is a service of sharc



# Consumer participation

- AOD consumer is anyone impacted by AOD service delivery, policy and laws.
- The process of involving consumers in decision making about service planning, policy development, priority setting and quality in the delivery of health services.
- “Rule by the people; democracy implies both popular participation and government in the public interest, and can take a wide variety of forms.” (Andrew Heywood)

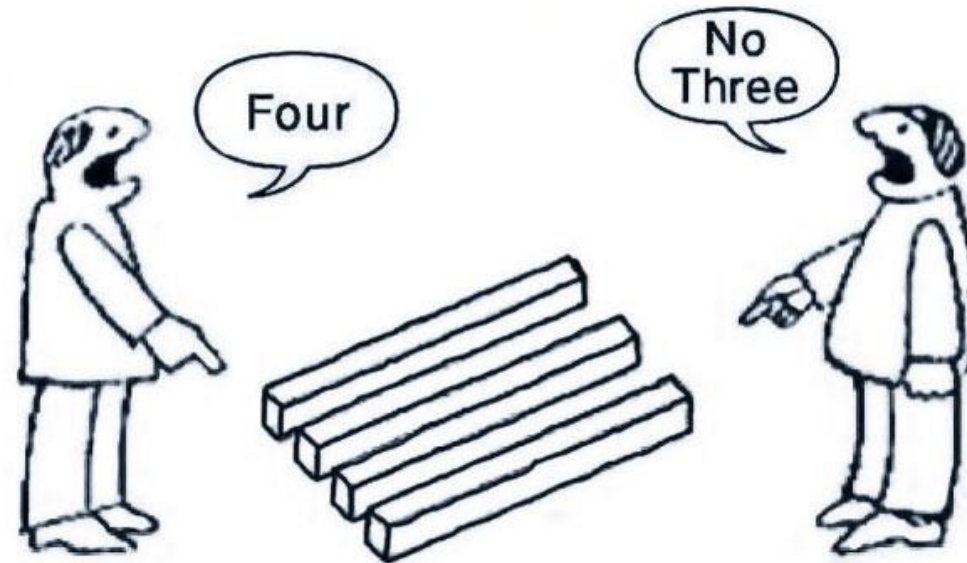


# Why family members

- Substance use is a familial and social issue.
- Families have the experience of care.
- Families are impacted by service provision.
- Families have valuable contribution and their involvement can lead to improvements in service delivery, policy and research.



# Family participation: the process



# Family participation: the process

*“If we are to live in harmony with ourselves and with nature, we need to be able to communicate freely in a creative movement in which no one permanently holds to or otherwise defends his own ideas.”*

(David Bohm, *On Dialogue*)



# Family participation: the process

- Uncertainty
- Trust
- Relationship
- Dialogue



# Family participation: the process

- Participation is not a separate activity – it needs to fit in with other existing processes.



# Barriers

- Attitudes
- Lack of information
- Representation issues
- Language
- Stigma
- Resources
- Tokenism





# Ideas for involvement

- Create a “family friendly” environment
- Develop information packages
- Hold information sessions
- Develop a family satisfaction survey
- Hold consultation sessions for new projects
- Start a consumer group
- Include family members on advisory groups and committees



# Thank you!

<https://youtu.be/FYaRpBAvESg>

## "I Let Love In"

Despair and Deception, Love's ugly  
little twins

Came a-knocking on my door, I let  
them in

Darling, you're the punishment for all  
my former sins

I let love in

The door it opened just a crack, but  
love was shrewd and bold  
My life flashed before my eyes, it was  
a horror to behold  
A life-sentence sweeping confetti from  
the floor of a concrete hole

I let love in

Well, I've been bound and gagged and  
I've been terrorized

And I've been castrated and I've been  
lobotomized  
But never has my tormentor come in  
such a cunning disguise

I let love in

O Lord, tell me what I done  
Please don't leave me here on my own  
Where are my friends?  
My friends are gone

So if you're sitting all alone and hear  
a-knocking at your door  
And the air is full of promises, well  
buddy, you've been warned  
Far worse to be Love's lover than the  
lover that Love has scorned

I let love in

