

Sally Clay – deceased on/about 4 April 2016 in Lake Placid, Highlands County, FL

Upon hearing of the passing of Sally Clay, Broward County Florida Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren wrote, "I'm very sorry to hear this news. Sally made a tremendous contribution to the world and to justice! A civil rights and consumer rights giant. It's a terrible loss."

Sally S. Clay was born August 5, 1941 in Mt. Sterling, KY, the daughter of William B. Clay, Jr. and Elizabeth Eastman Clay. She graduated from high school in 1959, in Houston, TX with a scholarship to Sarah Lawrence for her talent as a writer. Her writing and editing abilities served her well. Other beneficiaries of her great writing and editing skills were the consumer, survivor, ex-patient movement for persons with mental illnesses as well as KTD, the Buddhist Monastery in Woodstock, New York. Among her publications are Take Horses for Instance, a book of poetry, On Our Own Together, SAMHSA's research to validate the importance of participation in consumer-run programs and translating/editing a book by the Karmopa, the spiritual leader of all Tibetan Buddhists.

Sally's Buddhist teacher Kempo Katar Rimpoche advised her to use her personal experiences with mental illness to benefit others like herself. She took this suggestion and made it her lifelong contribution.

In 1980 the State of Maine developed Client Rights which were in essence privileges, not rights. Sally went to testify before the State Legislature giving them a lesson in English which resulted in Sally being asked to help draw up the first official Client Rights for the State of Maine. She followed that up by writing and narrating a slide presentation in 1981 about the stigma of mental illness. It was used in university settings for psychology and social work classes as well as the general public. The presentation of Stigma to a gathering of Maine priests resulted in a \$2,000 donation and connection of the PCPL to the Campaign for Human Development resulting in three years funding for a drop-in center. The Portland Coalition for the Psychiatrically Labeled drop-in center, Sally's vision, was the first all consumer-run drop-in center in the State of Maine and one of only four drop-in centers in the entire nation. In 1984 the Portland Coalition was the recipient of a Community Support Programs grant by NIMH. Upon the passage of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness, PAIMI, in 1986 the Coalition was asked to provide the protection and advocacy for the State of Maine. The Coalition advocates had access to all mental health service providers and advocated for the clients, including providing systems advocacy.

Sally decided to move to Woodstock to practice Buddhism in 1988. Visionary Sally developed two all consumer-run drop-in centers in 1989. One was located in Kingston (Ulster Co.) and the other in Poughkeepsie (Hudson Co.) and provided advocacy in Hudson River Psychiatric Center. PEOPLE, is the acronym for Projects to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled, Sally's creation and is a successful large organization to this day. While working for PEOPLE Sally was chosen by Gov. Mario Cuomo in 1992 to represent the State of New York, National Recognition, as the person in New York State who best "Overcame Adversity" and another plaque was added to the her already full wall.

During her time in New York, Sally was chosen to be the Consumer Expert and Representative for the Sanbourne vs. Chiles class action lawsuit regarding the care being provided to the

residents of South Florida State Hospital. She also wrote the reports for the attorneys. Sally becoming more serious about her Buddhist practice, moved to Massachusetts and became the Peer Specialist for “Windhorse” a program developed by Buddhist practitioners at Naropa U. to help persons struggling with mental illness to achieve recovery.

Sally’s two final contributions were in the State of Florida. She was one of three consumers to write the proposal for the SAMHSA research about the efficacy of all- consumer-run programs and their impact on recovery and well-being when added to traditional services. The results are described in On Our Own Together with Sally as the editor. Sally had a role in three of the four drop-in-centers in the research study, Portland Coalition in Maine, Peer Center in Florida and Mental Health Client Action Network in California. She also worked on another federally funded project for Polk County Mental Health, known as WOW, Women of Wonder, for mothers serving prison sentences.

Throughout her career as an advocate and peer in the consumer self-help movement, Sally served as a leader, writer, trainer, speaker and advocate on the national level, impacting the quality of life for those who like herself, struggled with mental health issues. She believed in being “radical” - changing things at their root cause.

Sally is survived by her daughter Meg (Jon) and dear granddaughter Emily of CA, stepson John, her sister Kathryn and step-sister Jeannette of KY and her close cousins, Susan, Paul, Jay Scott, Hope and Ann. The Weber-Callahan family in Lake Placid provided help, support, visited and read to Sally throughout her illness. In South Florida she leaves her loyal and longtime friend and colleague, Dianne Côté to carry on her legacy of personal dignity and human rights.

Sally’s passions were: 1) advocacy 2) consumer-run drop-in centers

3) Buddhist practice. Please send your donation to the one of your choice from above list. If you wish, honor Sally by placing name of recipient on her Facebook.