

## **Comments for Workshop # 1 – from Karen Rebeiro on Occupational Therapy**

As for any message, well, the key one would be that consumers consistently identify **work** as an integral component of their recovery and oftentimes, are denied access to paid work for a variety of reasons, such as professionals not feeling that they are ready, a lack of dedication to fiscal and human resources to properly enable supported employment, a lack of collaborative partnerships with community partners - to name just a few. As an occupational therapist, I view the lack of access and inequitable distribution of opportunity for paid work as injustices. Thus, it becomes incumbent upon us 1) to **advocate to proper allocation of resources** to do the task of linking consumers to paid work opportunities; 2) to assist in the task to **educating teams and other professionals** of the importance of work to recovery; 3) in assisting by **providing evidence [through research]** of the benefits and outcomes [and challenges] of enabling work for consumers; 4) and in remaining true to our calling to **address the occupational needs** of people whose circumstances serve as barriers to full participation.