

22nd July 2005

Re Dr Clive Hathaway Travis

Clive provided an engaging and stimulating account of his personal experiences and views of paranoid schizophrenia over the years 1994-2005 to a group of over 20 professionals working within the mental health and learning disability services. This was at the Advancing Practice in Bedfordshire conference held at Silsoe Conference Centre on June 15th 2005 and his talk was entitled Using Advance Statements/Directives.

Clive highlighted the impact of his illness and treatment, both negative and positive experiences. He particularly drew attention to the pros and cons of experiencing symptoms, to the indirect consequences of experiencing a mental illness and to the need for and value of close working relationships with mental health professionals. He highlighted the value of being actively involved in developing his own advance statement and its use in directing his future care, emphasising the value of listening and taking account of a patient's personal choice and preference, which is particularly important when considering the use of powerful medications as an approach towards recovery from mental illness.

Clive summarised by valuing his experiences, which are now the subject of his forthcoming book: *The Layman's Guide To Prince Charles's Dog*.

His session was very well received by the conference delegates and was highly rated through their evaluation:

Presentation 4.76/5 (1= very poor, 5= excellent)

Content 4.77/5

Relevance 4.71/5

I would certainly highly recommend Clive for similar such presentations, providing a valuable personal perspective of the experience and consequences of mental illness and treatment.

John Butler
Consultant Nurse (Acute Mental Health)
Bedfordshire & Luton Partnership Trust