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Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Author Biographies --

Acknowledgments -- Part one: Setting the Context: Paradigms,

Change, and Research Approach -- 1. Looking Back: The Traditional

Paradigm in Mental Health -- 2. Moving Ahead: Towards An

Empowerment-Community Integration Paradigm in Community Mental Health -- 3. 'Nothing about Me without Me': Research Approach and Methodology -- Part two: The State and the Community: Policy and Mental Health Change -- 4. The Sociopolitical and Policy Context: A Historical Review -- 5. A Time of Change: The Growth of Community Mental Health and the Emergence of an Alternative Paradigm, 1985-1994 -- Part three: One Journey, Three Pathways: Change in Mental Health Organizations -- 6. Pathways towards Change: The Process of Organizational Change in Three Mental Health Organizations -- 7. Organizational Change: Outcomes in the Three Community Mental Health Organizations -- Part four: Organizational Change: Outcomes in the Three Community Mental Health Organizations -- 8. Personal

Empowerment -- 9. Community Support and Integration -- 10. Social Justice and Access to Valued Resources -- Part five: Conclusions -- 11. Living with Change: Themes and Lessons from Shifting the Paradigm -- 12. The Future: New Directions for the Empowerment-Community Integration Paradigm -- 13. Final Reflections on the Research Process -- References -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

This ground-breaking study examines changes in the values and related practices within community mental health that occurred between 1984 and 1998. During this period, a distinct shift in policy coincided with a new emphasis on mental health reform. Consumer/survivors and other mental health claims-makers played an active role in shaping mental health policy during this time and influenced the trend of consumer/survivor and family participation and empowerment in the policy and planning process. This unique twoand-a-half year study examined one community in depth by looking at the changes that occurred for individuals, organisations, and policy. While the three organizations under study followed their own unique path toward change, the authors contend that there were also common elements in the journey toward the "empowerment communityintegration" paradigm. Central to this shift was the emphasis on building an organization based on consensually defined values and a vision for the future. Shifting The Paradigm in Community Mental Health is itself a valuable guide for future research and for the consumers and administrators within the mental health community as well as in other areas of human services. This is an important guide for anyone interested in innovation and social change.