SESSION 1: IN-SESSION PHOTOS OF THINGS YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE AT THE CLUBHOUSE
Emerging concepts/themes: feeling good, comfort, lifestyle, getting away from people

SESSION 2: ASSIGNMENT - PHOTOS OF THINGS YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE AT THE CLUBHOUSE
Emerging concepts/themes: emotions, shifting priorities, clubhouse activities

SESSION 3: ASSIGNMENT - PHOTOS OF THINGS YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE OUTSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE
Emerging concepts/themes: hanging out with non-clubhouse friends, career goals, school, stability, animals

SESSION 4: PHOTO FIELD TRIP AND WRITING
Emerging concepts/themes: nature, achieving goals, solitude, self control, serenity

SESSION 5: SHARING SESSION
Youth are currently working on their plans for sharing their stories with people that are important to them. This final step of Photovoice is intended to be youth-driven in that they choose the audience and format for sharing.

LESSON LEARNED
- Varied interest in taking photos, but meaningful discussions occur once we have images to consider. Inability to work with youth between sessions presents a challenge for maintaining interest in the project.
- Having individual sessions is a useful adaptation of the methodology. It gives each youth time to process and talk about the meaning of her/his photo(s) with the project team before talking about the photo with peers.
- Youth seem to have a generally positive perspective on the clubhouse and its role in their lives. There was little focus on “things you don’t like so much,” making discussions about what they would like to see changed difficult.
- Unrealistic to expect all the youth to participate in each session for a variety of reasons, including discharge before final session(s).
- Embrace the adaptability of the Photovoice methodology, and when using it in the context of a program evaluation ensure flexibility within that evaluation plan to maintain fidelity to the underlying values of Photovoice.

IMPLICATIONS
As public health institutes operate more frequently as agents bridging the various sectors of practice and policy-making that aim to improve health and well-being, collaborations with behavioral health agencies are likely to increase. This project represents a collaborative project that brings together representatives from the state behavioral health agency, their service providers, and a public health institute. As a participatory technique, Photovoice offers an interesting avenue for collaboration that reaches into the actual experience of people who are traditionally considered research subjects, providing a level of empowerment that other research methods do not. Other public health institutes can learn from Georgia’s experience in adapting this methodology into an otherwise “standard” evaluation framework.

For more information, please contact the Georgia Health Policy Center at 404.413.0314 or visit us online at www.gsu.edu/ghpc.