

# Persons Points of View

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May, 2005

Editor: Ted Chipps

## Next Monthly Consumer Meeting

June 16, 2005

11:30 am

6th Floor Auditorium

D-WCCMHA

640 Temple

Detroit, MI 48201

## Did You Know That ?

Schizophrenia is a disease of the brain that affects one out of a hundred people in the world.

## Join the Partnership Initiative for Consumer Leadership

“Monthly Consumer Meetings just don’t happen,” says William H. from the Motor City Clubhouse. On the first Thursday of each month, consumers and staff meet together to plan the upcoming consumer meeting / meetings. “We review the past meeting to see where we can improve,” he said. At the May consumer meeting, there was strong support for more on “spend down.” “So,

we expect to have our next meeting or meetings devoted to spend down issues,” said Joel B. from the Inner City Clubhouse.

Another goal is to have consumers from every clubhouse participating. It is good leadership training, said Margo C. from the New Directions Clubhouse. It shows that consumers can have a direct say on what matters to them.



William H., Motor City Clubhouse, has attended six Partnership Initiative Meetings.

Consumers interested in participating in Partnership Initiative Meetings call 313-833-2033.

## Say Hello to Dr. Richard Visingardi, New Head of the D-WCCMHA

Consumers who attend regular Monthly Meetings at the Agency have already met Dr. Richard Visingardi. They know to call him Rich when they ask him questions or chat with him.

Rich has the Agency working on a six point plan. The plan provides an overview for specific transitional outcomes. These outcomes are in the following areas:

1) Board of Governance:

County/Authority.

2) Strategic Planning: Vision, Mission, Values and Outcomes to meet new challenges and opportunities.

3) System Changes: Improve the way we serve people.

4) Best Practice: Providing supports and services that work.

5) Accreditation: Proof of



Transitional Executive Director Richard Visingardi tells a Town Hall audience: If we keep the Consumer first, everything else falls into place.

competence and excellence.

6) Permanent Executive Director.

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## Consumer Notes

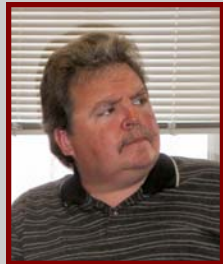
### May 21, 2005

## Monthly Consumer Meeting

by Judith C.,  
Motor City Clubhouse

I attended the monthly consumer meeting on May 19, 2005 at 640 Temple. I found it very informative and was very glad I went. I learned about National Schizophrenia Week and how it started. A consumer and a doctor went over seas and went to an institution for people with schizophrenia and found them chained to a wall. They worked to get them freed and to raise awareness of schizophrenia. National Schizophrenia Week started out as National Schizophrenia Day, but people got together to raise awareness. This is how National Schizophrenia Week started.

All of us that have schizophrenia have to deal with stigma. Joanne Verbanic of Schizophrenics Anonymous (SA) spoke on the



Every third Thursday of the month, consumers meet at the Agency to share their experiences and exchange ideas. Through the Partnership Initiative, they help plan, facilitate, and participate in meetings through presentations and recovery open talks.

Peter K., a member of A Place of Your Own Clubhouse facilitated the May meeting.



Eric Hufnagel, President and CEO of the National Schizophrenia Foundation, spoke about the history of the Foundation.



Joanne Verbanic, Founder of Schizophrenics Anonymous (SA), told those present of the challenges of stigma.



Joel B. from the Inner City Club House verbalized the importance of SA Meetings in his life.

stigma of schizophrenia and what it means to her. But listening to her touched many people including me. It was like listening to myself and the pain I went through for years before getting help. Just dealing with those who don't have schizophrenia makes us feel ashamed and afraid of being around others.

There are many clubhouses that host Schizophrenics Anonymous (SA) meetings. Among them are New Directions, A Place Of Our Own, Fisher, Inner City, Next Step, and Turning Point Clubhouses. Other places are Lincoln Behavioral Services, Goodwill Industries, and Circle of Life Health Center. New Directions has people from the community attend the meetings to help raise awareness. I thought this was a good idea because it will help people to understand and not fear us.