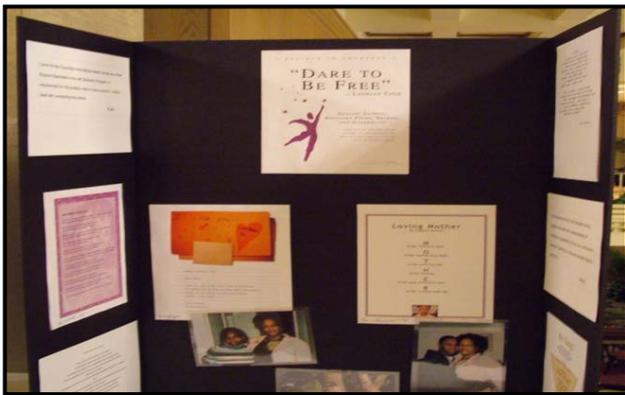


The National GAINS Center Consumer Perspectives Exhibit

“In Our Own Words: Our Experience with Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System”

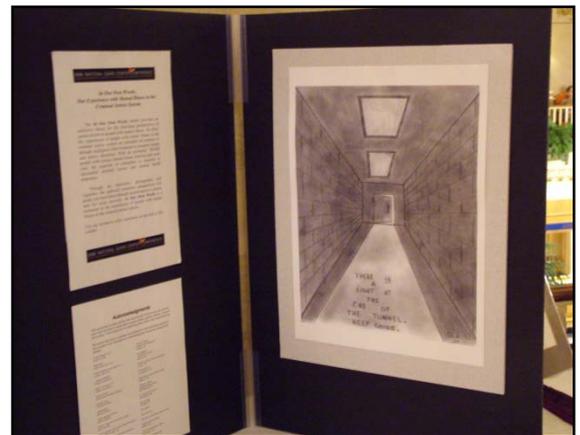
The National GAINS Center Consumer Perspectives Exhibit was designed to educate people working in the mental health, substance abuse and criminal justice systems. Contributors to this exhibit include consumers and peer specialists, participants in jail diversion programs and drug courts, and others with justice involvement. The result of the contributions of these men and women from around the country is a multi-media exhibit of vignettes, photos, pastels, pencil drawings, poetry, collages, audio clips and a film clip. The vignettes and audio clips were developed by GAINS Center staff during both in-person and phone interviews. An important component is the inclusion of a focus on personal recovery and the current work of consumers to transform systems to better meet the needs of people with co-occurring disorders.



Viewers to the exhibit are provided with behind the scenes personal accounts detailing the emotionally complex struggles men and women with a mental illness and co-occurring disorders face when in contact with law enforcement officials and the justice system. The exhibit has colorful displays that emphasize that recovery and a return to fulfilling lives is possible. For the many people working in the justice system whose work only brings them into contact with people at very low points in their lives or who see people continually cycling through the system, the exhibit provides proof that recovery is possible for some of the people who come through their programs and facilities.

After the exhibit debut at the National GAINS Center Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in April 2006, the exhibit has been showcased at:

- The National Health Care for the Homeless Conference; Portland, Oregon - June 2006
- Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health Care; Quincy, Massachusetts - March 2007
- The Fourth Annual CIT National Conference; Atlanta, Georgia - November 2008
- 23rd Annual Alternatives National Conference; Omaha, Nebraska - October 2009
- CMHS National GAINS Conference; Orlando, Florida - March 2010
- New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, 6th Annual Executive Seminar; Albany, New York - April 2010



For more information, contact Matt Canuteson at Policy Research Associates, Inc, (518) 439-7415 ext. 5243
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The Consumer Perspectives Exhibit collects artwork to display at venues. If you have pieces of art that you wish to display, please contact Matt Canuteson for further information.