

SIMPLE WAY IS THE ONLY WAY - My experience from the EMPAD Amsterdam Pilot Training week

Since I first time heard of Clubhouses the idea sounded to me fantastic. As time passed by practical questions came to me. "How they deal with two members wanting to go to work at the same place? How work can be done with the side by side way?" etc.

I'm an optimistic person, I do believe in the human capacity to change and that the natural state of the human been is to improve, to develop himself. So this model was marvelous for me, but despite of it I couldn't understand how to make it happen.

As soon as we participate in work order day meeting most of my doubts were solved, everything is been talked until it is solved. If it is not solved, an interrogation mark stays at the board. Everyone's opinion is important and just common sense wins. It is like when you organize the next day when you are in holydays with your friends, program is not always exactly what you want but close enough that you don't argue with your friends. One activity is done in his way and next activity is in your way. This is the big difference with regular jobs, where your work mates don't care of you and you don't care of them, we are just civilized people, and most of them are not friends but good colleagues. But at the clubhouse everyone has the commitment to keep clubhouse working and we are in the same boat and I can empathize with most of them because I am or I was in a very similar place, so it is easier to take care of each other.

So my first big question was answered! How to deal with the relationship issue: with the informal side of an institution, with the human aspect of the organization.

Beside this with working in the units and making work order questions my second grand doubt was solved. The side by side works because every task is decomposed in little ones. So everyone can work just by choosing the type of task according to its level of difficulty, the time it will take to be done, and in as much as tasks he wants to be involved in. That's how all can share the work which is needed to maintain the Clubhouse. For our training it was vital to see the activities that were part of each Clubhouse unit and also to see how the work divided in many steps. It helped me to understand how the method relies in the number of members and the kind of disorder and the abilities they have.

Now I can say I'm a believer!!!



You can join me singing this song from Smash Mouth with the little changes I made ;-)

By Viviana Silva Folkman, Uztai foundation, Basque Country, Spain

I thought **THIS** was
Only true in fairy tales
Meant for someone else
But not for me
WORK was out to get to me
That's the way it seems
Disappointment haunted
All my dreams

And then I saw
CLUBHOUSE I'm a believer
Not a trace
Of doubt in my mind
I'm in love
I'm a believer
I couldn't leave **IT**
If I tried
I thought **FRIENDS WERE**
More or less a given thing
The more I gave the less
I got, oh yeah
What's the use in trying
All you get is pain
When I wanted sunshine
I got rain

And then I saw
CLUBHOUSE Now I'm a
believer
Not a trace
Of doubt in my mind
I'm in love
I'm a believer
I couldn't leave **IT**
If I tried

What's the use in trying
All you get is pain
When I wanted sunshine
I got rain

And then I saw
CLUBHOUSE
Now I'm a believer
Not a trace
Of doubt in my mind
I'm in love
I'm a believer
I couldn't leave **IT**
If I tried

Then I saw **CLUBHOUSE**
Now I'm a believer
Not a trace
Of doubt in my mind
Now I'm a believer
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah,
yeah, yeah
I'm a believer
Then I saw **CLUBHOUSE**
Now I'm a believer