Dr. Jaakko Seikkula and colleagues in Finland developed “Open Dialogue,” a family network approach to first episode psychosis. Open Dialogue de-emphasizes medication and instead establishes a dialogue with the social network within twenty-four hours. This reduces hospitalization, lowers use of medication, and reduces crisis.

In a five-year follow-up, 83% of patients returned to their jobs or school and were not on government disability, and 77% did not have psychotic symptoms. Robert Whitaker featured Open Dialogue in his book Anatomy of An Epidemic as an alternative to ineffective treatment in the US.

Portland Hearing Voices Director, schizophrenia diagnosis survivor, and therapist Will Hall has taught internationally on mental diversity and innovative approaches to psychosis. He is currently training with Dr. Seikkula and his colleague Dr. Mary Olson in at the Mill River Institute in Haydenville, MA, and this workshop provides a basic introduction to Open Dialogue. (Open Dialogue is a Finnish clinical method based on 3 years+ training, and this Introduction does not represent the depth of that method, but instead serves to spark interest in learning more).

Co-sponsored by Portland Hearing Voices, National Association of Social Workers - Oregon Chapter Mental Health Network, and the Mental Health Association of Portland.

Saturday, February 25, 2012
10am-2:00pm
Process Work Institute 2049 NW Hoyt St. Portland OR
Registration: $60 (contact for scholarships). 3.5 CEU's
Pre-registration recommended: portlandhearingvoices@gmail.com