Volunteers

Ask your volunteers the following questions: There are many popularly held beliefs and stereotypes about schizophrenia. List two beliefs that you can think of. On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being “not at all” and 10 being “absolutely accurate”, how accurate do you think each of the beliefs are? Rank each individually. How do you think schizophrenia is diagnosed? Volunteer 1: Joseph stated that he believed that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia heard voices and had different personalities. He rated a 9 out of 10 that individuals with schizophrenia heard voices. He rated 5 out of 10 that individuals with schizophrenia had different personalities. He stated that that he believed schizophrenia is diagnosed by a doctor in a hospital. Volunteer 2: Julie stated that she believed that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia can live normal lives, but they also can be suicidal depending on the severity. She rated a 9 out of 10 that individuals with schizophrenia can live normal lives. She rated 3 out of 10 that they can be suicidal depending on the severity. She stated that she believed schizophrenia is diagnosed through meeting requirements in the DSM.(Julie is a Special Education Teacher)Volunteer 3:Lucas stated that he believed that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia are crazy and have impulsive behaviors. He rated a 6 out of 10 that they are crazy. He also rated a 6 out of 10 that they have impulsive behaviors. He stated that he believed schizophrenia is diagnosed at the doctor or through therapy. Volunteer 4: Matthew stated that he believed that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia are crazy and that they have mental illness where they have different personalities. He rated a 5 out of 10 that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia are crazy. He rated a 10 out of 10 that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia have different personalities. He stated that he believed schizophrenia is diagnosed through a Neurologist. Volunteer 5: Amy stated that she believed that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia are more likely to be men than woman, and that they can hallucinate depending on the case. She rated a 10 out of 10 on individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia are more likely to be in men. She also rated a 10 out of 10 that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia can hallucinate. She stated that she believes they are diagnosed through a licensed doctor through questionnaires, observations, and testing. (Amy has worked in medical field for 20 years)First, when asking individuals to answer these questions I found that a lot of people did not know what Schizophrenia was. I had to ask a lot more people than expected due to them having no knowledge on Schizophrenia. That completely shocked me. As you can see people with a background in the medical field, and Special Education had the most knowledge in Schizophrenia. Schizophrenia can be defined as, “a psychotic disorder, or one in which the person’s thoughts, perceptions, and behaviors are impaired to the point where she is not able to function normally in life.” (Spielman, R.M., 2018i) The symptoms of Schizophrenia are hallucinations, delusions, disorganized thinking, and abnormal motor behavior. Some early symptoms would be unusual thoughts, paranoia, off communication, and problems at school or work. We learn that hallucinations are “perceptional experience that occurs in the absence of external stimulation.” (Spielman, R.M., 2018i) As you can see Amy that has a background in the medical field had that symptom correct.