Playshop for VSM

## Viable System Model Playshop

In this playshop participants will have an opportunity to role play the questions and decisions entailed at each of the five systems in the Viable System Model.

I will put the VSM down on the floor with painter's tape and invite people to take a position in one of the systems.  They will have a version of the VSM questions for each system. I'll facilitate and play the role of the environment to introduce changes or disturbances (unless there are lots of people to include the environment roles).  We'll start with the day-to-day operations and anticipated future and see how we go introducing change.  People start out discussing their issues, checking with people in other blocks and incorporating information.  Then, we would fishbowl each system in turn to finish.

The case study will be a small restaurant.

Allenna Leonard, Ph.D.

Allenna is an American/Canadian consultant in organizational cybernetics based in Toronto. Her academic background includes a BA from St. John’s College, a MA from George Washington University and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. She is a licensee of Team Syntegrity, a director of the Cwarel Isaf Institute and Chair of the Ecologos Environmental Institute. Beginning in the 1980’s and continuing until his death, she worked with Stafford Beer on a variety of consulting and educational projects in North America, South America and Europe. the most prominent being Projecto Urucib in Montevideo Uruguay for the UNDP. Her interests include improving accountability measures for soft information and applications of cybernetics to governance and ecology. She has taught university courses and published numerous papers and articles. Much of her work has been focused on the use of Beer’s Viable System Model and Team Syntegrity Process. She is a past president of the American Society for Cybernetics, and received it’s McCulloch Award and is a past president of the International Society for Systems Science. She continues to support and extend Beer’s work in Conference presentations especially with with Metaphorum, the organization founded to continue his legacy.