

Meeting Minutes
Housing & Mental Health Network
Fri, June 13, 2014

Welcome and Introductions

Discussion led by Eve Byrd: Ethical and Practice Issues in Mental Health Treatment with Older Adults in Housing (slides attached)

Drawn from article: Blass, David M., et al. "Ethical issues in mobile psychiatric treatment with homebound elderly patients: The psychogeriatric assessment and treatment in city housing experience." *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 54.5 (2006): 843-848.

Five ethical challenges

1. Establishing treatment contract vs. the right to refuse treatment

Discussion:

- Is there a higher level of discomfort when intervening with behavioral health issues vs. other medical issues? Would we act differently in a diabetic emergency vs. a mental health emergency?
- With limited mental health resources available, it can feel pointless to facilitate a hospitalization knowing there will be little support when the resident returns.

2. Protecting confidentiality vs. patient protection

Discussion:

- It can be difficult asking colleagues to use a different approach with resident who has mental issues without disclosing their diagnosis.
- When treating residents in their home, your badges or signs on cars can disclose your organization.
- Most buildings require visitors/service providers to show ID and sign in. Could there be a separate or electronic sign-in for service providers to protect resident privacy? One option shared by Jacque Thornton at LeadingAge is an automated system through Lobby Guard: www.LobbyGuard.com

3. Protecting autonomy vs. asserting beneficence

Discussion:

- Protecting autonomy is difficult when a person's decision making capacity is unclear.
- Reassessing frequently is important as a person's capacity can change over time.

4. Treatment termination vs. open-ended treatment

Discussion:

- It is a disservice to leave a resident in a level of service that is too high for their needs.
- It's very important to be transparent with other agencies about the potential "if, then's" of changing services or discharging a resident from services.
- Can housing stability be seen as part of the person's treatment plan?
- It's ideal to include the resident and various service providers in group planning for treatment.

5. Cost vs. benefit of care

Discussion:

- Only a small percentage of service providers have funding available for the time and effort it takes to engage with a person with mental illness (i.e. ACT teams, grant funded programs). Most service providers are funded through health insurance and only receive payment for successfully providing a specific service (i.e. home health).
- Possibly in the future, accountable care organizations will see housing a greater partner in patient care.

Client Case Presentation & Group Discussion led by Atiya Charles, Community Friendship Inc

- Intensive Case Management offers services to persons with serious and persistent mental illness (SMPI) who have been in state hospitals, have frequent hospitalization (3+ hospitalizations in 12 month period, 10+ hospitalizations in lifetime, less than 30 day readmissions), are frequently seen in emergency rooms, chronically homeless, being released from jails or prisons, AND/OR are deemed appropriate for services by a relevant court.
- ICM helps consumers negotiate and obtain needed community services to ensure successful community living.
- Discussed case in which ICM engaged a resident over the course of 4 months, helped connect her to a psychiatrist and therapist, and assisted in meeting her goals of volunteering and doing artwork.

Topics for Future Meetings

- Continuum of mental health services: How to get a person into services if they do not currently have a psych provider
- Success stories in working with persons with mental illness in housing
- Participants are invited to rank additional meeting topics on evaluation sheet

Other Announcements

- Two training in Aging Services will be offered through LeadingAge:
August class: <http://memberservices.membee.com/gaatlasn/irmevents.aspx?id=361>

October class: <http://memberservices.membee.com/gaatlasn/irmevents.aspx?id=362>

Next meeting: tentatively Friday, August 15 from 9-11 am