

Minds on the Edge Moderator Report Format:

Group Number: 1

Moderator Names: Ellen Peterson and Adrian Sagan

Group Description:

Group 1 consisted of 12 participants; 10 women and 2 males. There were 4 additional observers who attended the group session for the majority of the dialogue. All of the participants were involved in the Mental/Behavioral Health field in a professional capacity. Individuals represented specialized organizations from Philadelphia, Chester and surrounding counties. One individual attended the Forum from New Jersey.

Participants were deeply engaged in the discussion. They presented a great willingness to work collaboratively, critically discuss the film and issues specific to the Greater Philadelphia region.

Policy Issues Identified (List issues identified by the group)

- Respecting the individual.
 - People have a right to their own life. Illness is not a crime. Too many people are getting locked up for mental illness.
- A lack of new ideas. The mental/behavioral health community is “stuck”.
- The tension between commitment and voluntary health.
 - Individuals will not receive services if they are not identified as a threat or danger.
 - Periods exist within a consumer where mental/behavioral health symptoms are not exhibited.
- Lack of support for family members.
 - **Example:** Confidentiality laws (Restricting information to parents of college students)
- Intervention vs. Preventive services
- Peer-to-Peer, Case management and Community services.
 - All three services are essential and necessary for an effective continuum of care.
- Does the larger system work? Gaps in services exist.
 - Although mental health issues might be present, only physical issues might be addressed because it may be easier to refer for physical therapy rather than mental health.
 - Insurance companies and coverage contribute to this lack of service.
- Mental health issues are an issue of the brain.
 - Looking at mental health from this perspective changes the way it is treated, how it is insured (through insurance companies) and the rate of stigmatization.
- Evidence based practices. Identify evidence based practices that work.
- Housing and behavioral health overlap.
- Missing practitioners for specialized populations
 - Aging population is very high in Pa.
 - How do race and immigration impact care?

Top Issues For Analysis (List 3-4 top issues people will work on)

1. Mental/Behavioral Health field is missing practitioners for special populations.
2. Does the System Work?
3. There should be increased attention to prevention rather than intervention
4. Mental Health as an issue of the brain.

Issue-by-issue analysis of each of the top 3-4 issues:

Issue Name: Mental/Behavioral Health field is missing practitioners for special populations.

Success:

Borderline Personality Disorders, CBT for suicide, Asian Mental Health Center (Hall Mercer) and Family Inclusion Training

Key Obstacles:

1. There is a difficulty getting professionals who speak other languages (other than English).
2. There are a limited number of child psychiatrists in the public system.
3. There are few geropsych practitioners.
4. Specialized training is expensive
5. Supervision for specialized fields is hard to get.

Key Assets

1. There are many area universities
2. There is a huge family advocacy and consumer advocacy community in the region.

Actions:

1. Increase public awareness of the issues
2. Increase recruiting in other countries for practitioners and therapists
3. Increase training in the L.E.A.P. method (Listen-Empathize- Agree-Partner)
4. Increase funding
5. Loaning organizations/companies to give breaks
6. Invest in increased training and supervision
7. Educate insurance companies on the values of EBP's

Issue Name: Does the System Work?

Success:

Access to the means for an individual to live fully, actualized, professionally, personally, domestically, scholastically, ect.

Key Obstacles:

1. Money.
2. There is an inequity in resources separate from money.
3. There is a lack of communication and coordination of services.
4. The ineffective use or overuse of labels. (Example: A person who is mental, drug addicted, diabetic)The MH/BH/MR communities are complicated which makes coordination more complicated.

Key Assets:

1. The region has a rich medical community.
2. There are good MH/BH/MR service providers in the region

Actions:

1. Bring more money into the region
2. There should be a redistribution of resources within the regional system
3. Use the “cancer cure” 1972 Richard Nixon model on a national level. (There has been little research and human trials)

Issue Name: There should be increased attention to prevention rather than intervention

Success:

There are services/programs that start early and follow through with by identifying appropriate services.

Key Obstacles:

1. We don't know how to prevent
2. Current funding that is being experienced
3. The lack of integration between education, legal and medical services
4. How consumers exit from services
5. The break between systems

Key Assets:

1. Regional institutional knowledge
2. Services that must be provided by law
3. Current codes and laws
4. The strengths of families and the community
5. Early intervention successes
6. The resiliency of children

Actions:

1. There must be a revision of services to create smoother transitions (From early intervention to school and from school to adult)
2. Teach the mental health system how to integrate preventive models.

Issue Name: Mental Health as an issue of the brain.

Success:

Success would like...a continuum of care that included prevention programs and early identification.

Key Obstacles:

1. Insurance/payment services are fragmented
2. Emergency room doctors and practitioners don't necessarily see the real issues- they treat symptoms.
3. People who need services the most don't always access them.
4. Mental health stigma and the payment parity for practitioners.

Key Assets:

1. Passion of the people working with these groups
2. New administration has set a tone for change

Actions:

Institute a Community Health Representative to help negotiate/navigate the system