



The Barriers Individuals with Mentally Illness Face in Terms of Community Placement

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to show the struggles that mentally ill individuals go through in our society in finding permanent housing within the community. Placement for this population is very difficult because of the barriers they face with their mental illness. Chronic mentally ill patients have extreme dependency needs, high vulnerability to stress and have a hard times with the daily demands of life. In addition, most mentally ill patients have physical medical problems and they may exhibit some behavior problems that might complicate placements. Statistics show that having medical and mental disabilities can prevent individuals from having permanent housing (Cook, 2001). A total of 217 patients exhibits what staff describes as poor self care even while supervised. Ninety two patients were considered to be a danger to themselves or others. Seventy six of these patients were in both of these categories. These are some of the barriers that can prevent safe housing for this particular population. Social workers main objectives are to take patients out of the institutional environment and to place them in supervised group homes in which they can live more independently. (Min, 2004), people with serious mental illness experience higher rates of residential instability and homelessness than any other population. While they are homeless they lose connection with social service systems and therefore face obstacles in maintaining residential stability.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE

The purpose of this study is to show the struggles that mentally ill individuals go through in our society in finding permanent housing in the community.

IMPLEMENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS STEPS

This was a qualitative study which consists of a set of questionnaires developed through a literature review. My data analysis are based upon my demographic variables. My qualitative analysis step was place in a chart with questions at the top and the interview answers underneath. I looked for patterns and themes that emerge from the interview question responses. The entire process includes 4 steps

1. Conduct the qualitative study
2. Demographic variables was collected and entered into SPSS
3. The interview questions and answers was entered as data
4. Both research questions was answered.

RESULT

Research question one: There were five common themes identified as main barriers:

- Unpredicted behavior from Moccasin Bend clients
- Criminal background
- Lack of income and insurance
- Lack of social skills; not able to interact with others
- To much medication is needed

Research question two: The majority of the agencies stated; mental health institutions should provide programs and services to develop coping and living skills .

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the main barriers that prevent mentally ill individuals from finding adequate community bases residential services?
2. Should mental health facilities provide independent living skills before discharge?

DESCRIPTION OF METHODS TO SELECT STUDY SAMPLE

The method I used to select my study sample was a convenience sample because it was based on availability of the interviewers. My data collection form was placed in a chart with questions at the top and interview answers at the bottom. I used agencies that Moccasin Bend typically refers their clients to.

DISCUSSION

Most of the agencies concerns were clients leaving mental institutions with unpredicted behavior and lack of social skills. Some agencies believe that Moccasin Bend should discharge only clients that are highly function and able to cope with the demands of life These group homes fear the harm and danger for their other clients.

FIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORKERS

- Provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless mentally ill individuals.
- Increase public awareness of discrimination and oppression among the mentally population.
- Endorse the Universal declaration of Human rights.
- Building skills to strengthen the mental ill population.
- Providing information to group homes about government grant funding for the mentally ill population.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLING FRAME

My interviews were conducted at 10 community agencies that operated supervised group homes. All were within the Chattanooga area. Written inform consent was required for participation in the study. The study was approved by Dr. Radu. Majority interviewees had a two year degree and one had a doctrine degree. The questionnaire contained 15 question and answers. The demographics were 80 percent African American women, 60 percent were in the age range of 50-63, and 30 percent had a bachelor degree.

