

Economics, Policy and Responsibility

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Transitions: Services by Life Stage

- Paediatrics
- Adolescent
- Specialist clinics eg diabetic, cardiac ENT
- Adult
- People who are older

The Way the Health World is Defined

- A series of systems
- A series of severities
- A series of “popular” v “unpopular” diseases
 - eg alcohol, diabetes
- The problem with this is that people are also divided into a series of systems, severities and popular v unpopular diseases.

The Way the Health World is Defined

- Rigid very narrow descriptions of illness
 - Reduced to coding
 - DSM V, ICD 10/11
- Compared to Freud, Luria or Sacks more detailed and holistic descriptions.

The Way the Health World is Defined: Problems

- This is a fundamentally materialistic approach and it is “analytical”,
 - it divides wholes into parts AND people into parts
- It is really useful when trying to describe in detail specific processes occurring in each individual.
- However when we think about treatment options, service provision and policies this same approach cause's problems.

The Way the Health World is Defined: Outcome

- Services are provided in discrete ways.
 - Services by age
 - paediatrics, adolescence, specialist services, adult, people who are older
 - Specialist services by system
 - Ear nose and throat, upper respiratory tract, cardiac, kidney.
 - Mental health problems
 - Specialist services by disease
 - Diabetes, epilepsy, arthritis, sleep disorders, alcohol problems.

Examples of Problem

- The more discrete services there are the more risk there is of people falling between two stools
- Expecting a person with FASD to remember follow-up appointments without help is not realistic.
- What may happen is the person ends up with Did Not Attend (DNA) notes in the case notes.
- Risk is the person is judged by that by the health professionals. “they obviously are not that ill” “wasting our time”

Health Professionals: Misinterpretations

- By the time the person with FASD does appear the health professionals may be quite distant and dismissive or worse hostile
- Add to that - remember what Myles said yesterday
 - “I don’t know where to go
I don’t remember the steps I need to take.
I don’t know the questions to ask”

Himmelreich 2006

Health Professionals: Misinterpretations

- Taking antibiotics regularly may be very difficult **but** if the person with FASD can't abide by the instructions;
Health professionals will interpret it as not caring to get better, being lazy.
- Evidence is clear if antibiotic medication is not taken in the prescribed way particularly if the course is not completed then antibiotic resistance increases.

Thoughts

- Feeling unwell, tired drained of energy
- Having some damage which causes pain but not feeling it
- Question: Does being in pain but not feeling it still drain your energy?
- Question: Does that make you depressed?

Circles



Major Problem

- Policies are not enforceable - they are not laws.
- To move forward most countries need legislation - that is the only way that policies attached to legislation can have enough power to force changes.

The Goal

- FASD is understood to be a lifetime condition.
- Access for initial diagnosis should be available at any time in life that the question of FASD is raised.
- Appropriate follow-up after diagnosis should be available for as long as necessary.