

Human Services and Justice

December 2013

News from the Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee

Message from the Provincial Co-Chairs

Although this year is coming to an end, the Local, Regional, and Provincial Human Services and Justice Co-ordinating Committees continue to plan for the future. Across the province, our colleagues have been creating and implementing programmes that will improve the delivery of services that span a range of health and justice sectors. Many of these initiatives were presented at our recent Provincial conference, "The Changing World from Youth to Elderly in Human Services and Justice". As you may be aware, we had more than 400 participants, and a phenomenal turnout from two-and-a-half days of diverse and thought-provoking workshops and keynote presentations. It was an outstanding conference, and the members of the organizing committee are to be commended for the tremendous amount of time and effort they committed to this event.

For those who wish to review the conference material, most of the keynote and concurrent presentations have been uploaded to the Provincial HSJCC website. You may notice that this is our new site. After many months of work, we do now have a website that is more attractive, functional and navigable. It has a greatly increased capacity to store and deliver content. Although there are still a few "bugs" to work out, it is a significant improvement. Many thanks to our CKT Committee Chair, Trevor Tymchuk, who has tirelessly worked to ensure the integrity of our website content. We pray synergy and attention to detail benefits us all!

One of the conference panel sessions provided the Provincial committee with the opportunity to present the second phase of our work on the "Police-ER Protocol". The panel comprised police officers from three different communities, who discussed how protocols within their local hospitals has reduced the amount of time police officers spend in emergency rooms, and expedited the care of the individuals in their custody. As with our other "Police-ER Protocols", we will be offering a webinar on this second phase in the future.

Recently, we received renewed "Communities of Interest (CoI)" funding, which allows us to provide additional webinars, in partnership with the Evidence Exchange Network for Mental Health and Addictions (EENet). On December 13, 2013, we held a webinar on the "Stanley Risk Assessment of Risk Management (SRAM)", a risk assessment tool developed by the Forensic Research Group at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. It was hosted by Provincial HSJCC Co-Chair, Sandie Leith. Our next webinar will explore the issue of "prisoner's belongings" --- how to ensure that our incarcerated clients, upon release from custody, have immediate access to their keys, money, clothing and identification. This is a problem province-wide, and this webinar will examine how one community has attempted to solve it. We hope to offer the webinar in mid-to-late January.

As previously reported, members of the Provincial HSJCC met with a team from the Ministry of Attorney General's Justice on Target team, to discuss how to improve the bail process. Last month, MAG's "Bail Experts Table" released their final report. It contains 34 recommendations to improve the bail process and reduce court delays. Within these recommendations are opportunities for local and regional HSJCCs to assist in affecting these positive change and ensuring that the needs of our clients are met.

Members of the Provincial HSJCC continue to be involved with the Justice Collaboratives, both at the local level, and in an advisory capacity.

As we wrap up another year, I want to thank my Co-Chair Sandie Leith for her diligence, motivation and leadership. I also want to thank Trevor Tymchuk for his critical eye, hard work and dry humour; Dorina Simeonov, for her ability to multi-task and produce excellent work simultaneously; and Jenna Hitchcox, for patient organizing and documenting our many committees and meetings.

We wish everyone a safe, happy and restful holiday.

Kate Arnold

Message from the Communications and Knowledge Transfer Committee

The Provincial HSJCC Conference was a great success. One of the highlights of our conference was Howard Sapers, the Correctional Investigator of Canada. The day after he spoke to us, he presented his annual report to Parliament. We have linked to both his presentation and the annual report.

In fact, almost all of the presentations from the conference are now available on our website - www.hsajcc.on.ca

It's a brand-new design for our site, so there is still a bit of tweaking to do. If you encounter any problems with the site, please email me at treva@bafewhings.ca. We are trying a new format for the newsletter. In testing previous newsletters, I have discovered that the more things you try to do with it, the more likely it is to cause errors with one or more of the myriad of email and browser software out there. I'm hoping the format works for the majority of readers. It's still available as a PDF, which is one of the only formats that works for (almost) everybody.

Legal Aid Ontario, another official member of the Provincial HSJCC, has released a discussion paper for their Mental Health Strategy. They're looking for feedback, and we've linked to the paper.

I want to thank Maurice Fortin for his contributions to the Communications and Knowledge Transfer Committee, and wish him well for the future. Which reminds me - we need volunteers for our CKT Committee. We meet, by teleconference, every month or two for no more than an hour. And, as always, if you have anything you'd like to contribute to the website or the newsletter, send it my way. Whether it's a news or journal article, or an article you've written about a project you're involved with, I'm happy to share it with our network of over 1400 people across Ontario.

Trevor Tymchuk, CKT Committee Chair

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4th Biennial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee Conference

New Realities: The Changing World from Youth to Senior in Human Services and Justice

Over 400 participants from all sectors of human services and justice gathered Nov. 25 to 27, 2013 at the Toronto Eaton Centre Marriott for the biennial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee conference.

With sponsorship from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Ministry of the Attorney General, Evidence Exchange Network, Connex Ontario and The Royal, the conference provided the opportunity for our community to share their learning and successes as we attempt to address the unique needs of youth and seniors.

Mr. Howard Sapers opened the conference with this keynote address: *Health in Federal Correctional: Key Challenges*. The conference hears Mr. Sapers speak of the ongoing difficulties and gaps for the men and women held in federal correctional systems to access appropriate mental and physical health care, and how he sees improvements can be made.

On Monday afternoon the panel presentation regarding *Ontario Police Emergency Department Protocols: Reducing Emergency Wait Time for Police Officers & Accompanying Individuals Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis*, showcased the incredible work done by the Provincial HSJCC and our policing partners.

Tuesday morning brought Dr. Wayne Hammond to the stage of the main ballroom for his keynote *Minding Resilience: The Human Curriculum for Thriving*. Dr. Hammond had us laughing and crying. His presentation focused on strength based perspective and his experiences of his work with youth were especially inspiring.

The film *Not Criminally Responsible* was shown on Tuesday afternoon. Facilitated by Steve Duffy from the Brockville Mental Health Centre, the film is a poignant story of both one man's journey through the Forensic system and the journey of his victim and her family to forgiveness; reflecting the resiliency of the client and the victim. A panel of Alice Bellavance, Dr. Cary Chaitowitz, Justice Richard Schneider and Roy Bordenina discuss a cross-section of cases working and living in the Forensic system and the planned amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada in respect to the Not Criminally Responsible legislation.

Megan Pearson closed the conference on Wednesday morning with her rhythmic couplets and her perspective on her personal experience living with mental illness, diagnosis and labels. *Breaking Barriers: Overcoming Obstacles and Finding Oneself Again*, the theme of resiliency was highlighted.

The concurrent sessions covered everything you wanted to know about working with Youth, Adults and seniors in the community of mental health and justice. This writer had the good fortune to moderate several of the concurrent sessions, was and am inspired by the innovation and good work done by colleagues in all the service sectors.

Film night was Tuesday evening. Thanks to Alice Bellavance for her recommendation and supply of: *One of Two Minds; Three Voices: Discovery, Recovery, and We Were Children*. With popcorn and drinks the films were well attended and very well received.

Aside from the excellent presentations, we were very pleased to be able to offer support to 15 people who live or are currently living within the mental health and justice system and for all of us who are working in the systems.

The food was terrific, the networking fabulous, the space was conducive to learning and sharing.

No conference can be a success without a phenomenal team working to plan and organize, this conference was no different. Sincere thanks and kudos go out to:

Vicky Heuhn, Alice Bellavance, Brian Smegal, Lin Sallay, Mandy Conolis, Mark Graham, Mario Jastak, Melanie Anderson, Melanie Lumsden, Paul Secord, Rob Adams, Sara Dine, Shelley Hatherly-Reichert,

AND

Sherry Sim, our event coordinator and her team who again this year made everything look effortless.

Now that this team made it all look so easy, we hope to have more volunteers for our 2015 conference!

Joan Dervin, Conference Co-Chair

Media Items and Press Releases

Sherry Sim Endorsing of the Mentally Ill

New York Times
A Canadian woman was denied entry to the United States last month because she had been hospitalized for depression in 2012. Ellen Richardson could not visit, she was told, unless she obtained "medical clearance" from one of three Toronto doctors approved by the Department of Homeland Security. Endorsement by her own psychiatrist, which she could presumably have obtained more efficiently, "would not suffice." She had been en route to New York, where she had intended to become a radio talk-show co-host.

\$325M lawsuit filed over 'shameful' Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre conditions

The London Free Press
A class-action lawsuit filed Monday on behalf of two former inmates at the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre over violence, overcrowding and living conditions at the troubled London jail is seeking \$325 million in damages from the province and the federal correctional system.

The statement of claim describes a jail rotting under the pressure of jammed and unsanitary cages, abusive or negligent guards and management, brutal cellblock overloads, improper medical treatment and a provincial government turning a blind eye to the situation.

Legal Aid Ontario's Mental Health Strategy consultations begin with release of paper

Legal Aid Ontario
Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) released a paper today setting out a set of first principles and key issues that LAO believes are important to developing its Mental Health Strategy. "LAO plays a crucial role in empowering clients in the mental health system," says John McCamus, Chair of LAO. "Our Mental Health Strategy aims to improve access for a client group that is disproportionately criminalized, incarcerated, impoverished and under-served."

People with mental disabilities fear police

Toronto Star
Not a single hand went up when Peter Bruer, the manager of conflict resolution at St. Stephen's Community House, asked the 40 or so people in the drop-in centre how many would call 911 for help in a crisis. Most of the participants at the lunch-hour forum on policing and mental health issues knew from personal experience how Toronto police respond to EDP (emotionally distressed person) calls. None wanted to go through it again. "I once called the police," Heidi said. "Three came. They handcuffed me. I was terrified. They didn't believe me. I would never call 911 again."

Prison life steeped in myths

Toronto Star
Locked doors and barred institutions breed suspicion and myth. Some Canadians believe jails are "country clubs" that coddle criminals. Others think they are medieval dungeons that strip inmates of their humanity and hope. For most people, however, the myth is that the jails are a massive evil in Canada's penal institutions for 146 years. It has helped inmates deal with the problems that brought them into the justice system, ex-prisoners reintegrate and troubled young people stay out of custody.

The charity doesn't have the power to throw open the prison doors and give Canadians a look. But it is doing the next best thing. This month its Ontario branch is running a public education campaign called Counter Point designed to give outsiders a glimpse of life in the province's 29 jails.

Myth Busting the Not-Criminally-Responsible Defense

The Trauma & Mental Health Report
He thought he must die. He had no future, nothing good. "I thought I was saving the child." Nerin Sarmiento had expressed disturbing thoughts about her children long before tragedy struck her small family of four. "My thoughts were so dark, I was convinced the police would come to my door and take me away," she said. "I was convinced the police would come to my door and take me away." Sarmiento had confessed to doctors and family members that she had thoughts of harming herself and her children.

Precautions were taken: Sarmiento was admitted to hospital several times, prescribed psychiatric medication, discharged, and had her mother move in to help care for the children.

With the Right Amendments, the Not Criminally Responsible Reform Act Can Support All

Schizophrenia Society of Canada
The Government of Canada announced yesterday that it will re-instate Bill C-54 (now re-numbered Bill C-14), the Not Criminally Responsible Reform Act, in the Senate of Canada. As a coalition of 12 national health organizations, we are optimistic that the government will work with us to amend the Bill so it supports victims without perpetuating the stigma and discrimination of mental illness.

Lack of Gladue report writers in northwest a 'crisis'

CBC News
Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services is calling for justice workers in the northwest. Aboriginal offenders, but there are no workers to do the research on what social and cultural reports. The head of Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services said she considers the situation a crisis.

Federal prisons more crowded, violent under Tories, ombudsman says

Globe and Mail
Canada's ombudsman for the federal inmates says the Conservative government, despite a budget, is doing a worse at rehabilitation under the federal government, despite a budget, and a 40 per cent increase in the past five years.

In a speech heavily criticized of the Conservative government's tough-on-crime policies, Howard Sapers criticized "mass incarceration," "arbitrary and abusive conditions of detention," and the victims' rights agenda that Justice Minister Peter Mackay has placed at the centre of his program.

The idea that "punishment with no apparent justice is justified stands many of the principles underlying our democracy and our criminal justice system on their head." Mr. Sapers told 150 people at a Toronto church on Sunday.

CMHA Ontario/Provincial HSJCC feedback reflected in Ministry of Attorney General bail recommendations

Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division
CMHA Ontario and its partner, the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC), is pleased that feedback provided to the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) is reflected in new, key recommendations to improve the provincial bail system.

Criminals running the show behind bars, say critics

The London Free Press
More prisoners, more gang members, more mentally ill, more women, more Natives, more blacks, more addicts. The population in Canada's federal prisons and provincial jails is growing, its face changing dramatically.

That's making life behind bars more dangerous and more costly, guards, politicians, researchers and prisoners themselves all warn. Worse, if we don't adapt to those changes, they warn, life on our side of the bars is going get more dangerous.

Health Canada, Stop Rewarding Companies for Worsening the Opioid Addiction Problem

The Huffington Post
There's nothing surprising about two physicians who specialize in addiction, writing about opioid addiction. That's because it's a major public health crisis with over 200,000 Canadians addicted to prescription pain killers. And just as distressing, Canadians are the second largest consumers of prescription opioids worldwide, with drug overdoses from prescription pain opioids rising at an alarming rate.

The sheer magnitude of this issue warrants us writing about it, talking about it and taking action.

OPP efforts pro-actively address mental health issues highlighted in quarterly report to Ombudsman

Ontario Provincial Police
In the year since receiving the Ombudsman's recommendations, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) continues to surpass project milestones to pro-actively address operational stress injuries (OSI), that progress is now highlighted in the OPP's fourth quarterly report to the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman.

Disturbing doc takes an inside look at Sean Clifton and the perpetrator's experience

The Globe and Mail
It is a fact that an effective way for one politician to attack another is by declaring that the opponent is "soft on crime." We live in that kind of country now. Even the cats and dogs on the street are probably aware that the federal government is tough on crime, building more prisons and talking up the importance of victims' rights. Look out, criminals. Lock 'em up and throw away the key. That kind of thing.

In this context, the importance and greatness of NCR: Not Criminally Responsible (CBC, 9 p.m. on Doc Zone) cannot be overstated. John Kastner's fine and vividly illuminating documentary caused something of a sensation at the Hot Docs festival and has already been screened and much discussed in British Columbia's 32 "controversial" and "provocative" are the adjectives used to describe it. I prefer "illuminating."

Vancouver Mental Health Crisis Has Limited Resources, Experts Say

Canadian Press
A man wielding a knife threatens to kill passersby, another man says he'll burn down an apartment building and kill everyone inside, and a third man is taken to hospital after trying to throw himself off a bridge for the second time in one night.

The incidents happened within one week last month, and Vancouver Police say they're part of the shocking statistics that show a dramatic spike in such scenarios over three years involving the mentally ill and their subsequent contact with law enforcement and the city's hospitals.

Police say 21 per cent of their calls involve someone who is mentally ill, and apprehensions under the Mental Health Act have risen 16 per cent between 2010 and 2012.

New Toronto jail includes mental health, aboriginal programs

CBC News
The largest correctional facility in Ontario is set to open in the next few weeks in Toronto, and will have 22,000 inmates including a massive mental health unit. The new facility will also have spaces for aboriginal ceremonies.

The Toronto South Detention Centre will accommodate up to 1,650 inmates, including those awaiting trial and individuals sentenced to provincial terms of under two years.

Federal inmates go on strike to protest pay cuts

CBC News
Inmates in several federal prisons across Canada have gone on strike to protest against a 30 per cent cut in their pay that took effect this week.

The government began deducting the money from prisoners' paycheques as part of a move to recover costs under the federal government's Deficit Reduction Action Plan. The move was first announced in May 2012 by Public Safety Minister Vic Toews.

Until now, the top pay an inmate could earn was \$6.90 a day, but only a small percentage of inmates received that. The average is \$3 a day.

Review of the Local Health System Integration Act and the regulations made under it, as provided for in Section 39 of that Act

Standing Committee on Social Policy
The Standing Committee on Social Policy will meet to review the Local Health System Integration Act, and the regulations made under it, as provided for in Section 39 of that Act.

The Committee intends to hold public hearings in Fort Erie, Hamilton, London, Kitchener-Waterloo and Windsor during the week of January 27, 2014; in Sudbury and Thunder Bay during the week of February 3, 2014; and in Kingston and Champlain during the week of February 10, 2014.

Police board approves new mental health crisis teams

Toronto Star
The police services board has expanded new resources to deal with mental health crises in the city's east end — an expansion in service prompting both praise and renewed criticism. The board approved a partnership between Toronto East General Hospital and the police service to create two mobile crisis intervention teams (MCITs), each made up of a police constable and mental health nurse in 54 and 55 divisions.

Ashley Smith's poems, journal moved psychologist

CBC News
Four specialized psychiatrists testifying at the coroner's inquest looking into the death of Ashley Smith offered more suggestions on how to make changes to the treatment of inmates dealing with mental health issues.

The psychiatrists took the stand Tuesday for a second day at the inquest, which is probing the death of Smith, a Moncton teen who died of a piece of cloth around her neck. The guards who stood outside her cell and watched, say they had been ordered not to intervene.

Hamilton police flooded with thousands of emails 'more angry' very polite arrest of fleeing woman

National Post
Hamilton police say they're "overwhelmed by the thousands of emails" after nearly a million people tuned in to watch officers make a difficult arrest.

The video, titled "honest cops" and posted on YouTube on Wednesday, shows two Hamilton police officers subduing a screaming woman, and a third man in a police uniform arrest, the male officer uses his taser to not to hit to the ground, placing handcuffs on her wrists before ushering her to the back of a police cruiser.

After she's in the car, the officer politely explains the level of force used. "I'm doing my best, ma'am, not to hurt that," officer Mark Morelli explains to several people who filmed the arrest.

CMHA Ontario among experts at community safety forum

Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Branch
CMHA Ontario was among more than three dozen participants from many sectors across the province to share knowledge about comprehensive approaches to community safety during a special forum hosted by the Law Commission of Ontario (LCO).

The Nov. 22, 2013 event, Interactive Expert Forum on Integrated Approaches to Community Safety, was moderated by 40 experts in education, justice, police, mental health and academia. The day was led by Joanna Brennan, a research lawyer from LCO, who composed the background paper that was the basis of a small group discussions held throughout the forum.

Meet Thamsániga Jantjie — the schizophrenic with a violent past who signed 'next to Osama bin Laden'

National Post
The man accused of faking sign interpretation while standing alongside world leaders like U.S. President Barack Obama at Nelson Mandela's memorial service said Thursday he has hallucinated that angels were entering the stadium, suffers from schizophrenia and has been violent in the past.

Thamsániga Jantjie said in a 45-minute interview with The Associated Press that his hallucinations began when he was 10 and was terrifying and that he tried not to panic because there were "armed policemen around me." He added that he was once hospitalized in a mental health facility for more than one year.

A South African deputy Cabinet minister, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, later held a news conference to announce that "a mistake happened" in the hiring of Jantjie.

Toronto woman with bipolar disorder refused entry into U.S. for being a 'night risk'

Toronto Star
While she was standing in front of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent, Box says she looked at his computer screen "and he said something about 'mental health issues.' Then he said, 'Yeah, you're really crazy.'"

Box said he told her that she wasn't being allowed to enter the U.S. and that she needed more documentation because she was considered a "high risk" individual. "I was like, 'I'm not crazy,'" said Box, who felt upset and humiliated and shocked that someone in that position could be so rude.

B.C. study calls for needle exchange, HIV treatment for inmates

Globe and Mail
Needle-exchange programs and increased access to HIV treatment are essential to curb infection rates among Canadian prisoners, says the lead author of a new study calling for immediate action.

Dr. M-J Milloy of the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS said other jurisdictions, including some American states, have reduced HIV rates among inmates and protected public health in the country's return when they're released.

"We are relying on the favour of collaborator with the prison system to try and find better ways to deliver harm reduction — whether that's supervised injection, or needle exchange, improved access to methadone," Milloy said on Monday.

"We think scientifically there's a good argument for these sorts of things and what happens next, I think, is a political question and a question that should be answered by the people who are in charge of our prison system."

Journal Articles, Research, and Presentations

Annual Report of the Office of the Correctional Investigator 2012-2013

Office of the Correctional Investigator
40th Annual Report of the Correctional Investigator to the Parliament of Canada

Risky Business - An Investigation of the Treatment and Management of Chronic Self-Injury Among Federally Sentenced Women

Office of the Correctional Investigator
The death of 19-year-old Ashley Smith in a federal women's correctional facility in October 2007 underscored the importance of developing effective, evidence-based management and treatment strategies for complex self-injury cases.

Since Ashley Smith's death, the number of self-injury incidents in federal penitentiaries has more than tripled. In 2012-13, there were 901 incidents of recorded prison self-injury involving 254 offenders.

Last year, a relatively small number of federally sentenced women offenders (37 of 264 total) disproportionately accounted for just over 35% of all reported self-injury incidents. The frequency and severity of self-injury is particularly concerning among Aboriginal women offenders, 45% of all incidents of self-injury among federally incarcerated women involved Aboriginal offenders.

Mental Health Strategy Consultation Paper

Legal Aid Ontario
This consultation paper considers how LAO can expand access to justice for legal aid clients with mental health and addiction issues. It is designed to provide greater clarity about LAO's early thinking about the objectives and plans for developing a Mental Health Strategy. It is also designed to encourage participation in the development of that Strategy by clients, lawyers, agencies, legal organizations, government, and other individuals or organizations who are concerned about legal services to persons with mental illness.

This paper follows earlier LAO papers on clinic law services and refugee legal aid. LAO anticipates releasing discussion papers on family and criminal legal aid in 2014.

Science of Adolescent Development Continues to Inform Juvenile Justice System

CSJ Justice Center
Over the past decade, state and local jurisdictions have been actively developing strategies to reduce both recidivism and spending in their juvenile justice systems. Many also seek to ensure that every youth who comes in contact with the system is met with procedural fairness at every stage of the justice system. To help accomplish these goals, juvenile justice leaders are examining and applying research and recommendations outlined in Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach, a seminal report released by National Research Council in 2012. This report provides an extensive review of decades of research on juvenile justice programs and practices. It also delineates how the adolescent development field can serve as a framework for developing strategies across the justice system continuum that promotes positive outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system.

Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

CSJ Justice Center
The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at the Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the Missouri Department of Social Services' Division of Youth Services, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's National Center for Youth in Custody co-founded the Youth in Custody Certification Program. The program is designed to improve the quality of the curriculum composed of instruction modules in areas such as culture change and leadership, assessment; treatment, services, and re-entry; family and youth engagement. Specifically, it shines a brighter light on the high-risk, high-needs juvenile offender population, and helps leaders to develop capacity, effectuate change, and sustain and accelerate system improvements to improve outcomes for youth in custody.

Bail Experts Table Recommendations

Justice on Target - Ministry of the Attorney General
This committee has made recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the bail phase while balancing the principles embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Criminal Code. These recommendations are to be focused on streamlining processes and enabling effective and efficient decision-making; they do not seek to restrict the exercise of discretion by justice participants. They address the whole bail phase — from the point of arrest to the determination of an accused person's bail status.

Study protocol: Efficacy of immediate patient feedback in emergency psychiatry: a randomized controlled trial in a crisis intervention unit for EBP

BMJ Psychiatry
This study looks at the effect of immediate session-by-session feedback using short questionnaires for evaluating outcome of and alliance in the therapy. Research data strongly suggests that using this feedback informed treatment improves the recovery of therapy. However, until now, this method of Miller and Duncan has not been examined in clients (generally students) with mild problems and in partner counselling. The study addressed by this study is whether immediate feedback is also effective when applied during crisis intervention and subsequent brief therapy in a psychiatric patient population in emergency situations. It also looks at whether "feedback-informed treatment" affects the quality of the alliance.

Mental illness stigma in health care settings a barrier to care

CMHA
People with mental health problems still experience some of the most deeply felt stigma from health care professionals, according to the Mental Health Commission of Canada. Although "often unintentional," such discrimination remains a major barrier to quality care, treatment and recovery, the commission reveals in the Opening Minds Interim Report.

Research source may fortify the duration of mechanical restraint among psychiatric inpatients: A cluster-randomized trial

Nordic Journal of Psychiatry
The management of psychiatric inpatients exhibiting severely disturbed and aggressive behaviour is an important educational topic. Well structured, IT-based educational programmes (eLearning) often ensure quality and may make training more affordable and accessible. The aim of this study was to explore the impact of eLearning on the use of personnel on the rates and duration of seclusion and mechanical restraint among psychiatric inpatients.

Self-Cutters May Be Seeking Pain Relief

Scientific American
"You don't feel your hurting yourself when you're cutting. You feel like this is the only way to take care of yourself," a young woman will call Alice told journalist Marilee Strong for her 1998 book, A Bright Red Stream: Self-Mutilation and the Language of Pain. As with many adolescents and young adults, Alice habitually harmed herself by cutting her arms and wrists.

Oregon Judges Participate in Live Mental Health and Criminal Justice Training

CSJ Justice Center
On October 22, 2013 about 200 Oregon judges took part in the training module, Judicial Work at the Interface of Mental Health & Criminal Justice, in Glendon Beach, Oregon. Organized by the Oregon Judicial Department, the training was part of a half-day program devoted to criminal justice and mental health. The program included a presentation by mental health advocate and author Pety Earley, followed by the training module, which was led by Judge Steven Lefman of Miami Dade County, FL, and Dr. Fred Osher, Director of Health Systems and Services Policy at the CSJ Justice Center. The event marked the debut of a new set of skill-building video case studies that are now part of the Judicial Work at the Interface of Mental Health & Criminal Justice training module.

How Mental Illness Losses Out in the NHS

The Centre for Economic Performance's Mental Health Policy Group
Mental illness accounts for a massive share of the total burden of disease. Even when we include the burden of premature death mental illness accounts for 23% of the total burden of disease. Yet, despite the existence of cost-effective treatments, it receives only 13% of NHS health expenditure. The under-treatment of people with crippling mental illnesses is the most glaring area of health inequality in our country.

Schizophrenia: an integrated socio-rehabilitation approach model

The Lancet
Schizophrenia remains a major burden on patients and society. The dopamine hypothesis attempts to explain the pathogenic mechanisms of the disorder, and the neurodevelopmental hypothesis the origins. In the past 10 years an alternative, the cognitive model, has gained popularity. However, the first two theories have not been satisfactorily integrated, and the most influential iteration of the cognitive model makes no mention of dopamine, neurodevelopment, or indeed the brain. In this Review we show that developmental alterations secondary to variant genes, early hazards to the brain, and childhood adversity sensitise the dopamine system, and result in excessive presynaptic dopamine