

Learning about Mental Health Practice

Edited by

Theo Stickley

University of Nottingham, UK

and

Thurstine Basset

Thurstine Basset Consultancy Ltd, UK



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In the time between contributing to one of the chapters in this book and its production, sadly one of the authors has died. This book is therefore dedicated to the memory of Magdalen Fiddler, a much loved and deeply missed friend who was an inspiration to all who met her.

Contents

About the editors	xiii
Contributors	xv
Preface	xxi
Acknowledgement	xxiii
Introduction Theo Stickley and Thurstine Basset	1
PART I: FOUNDATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE – THE TEN ESSENTIAL SHARED CAPABILITIES	7
1 The ten essential shared capabilities: their background, development and implementation <i>Roslyn Hope</i>	9
2 The ten essential shared capabilities in practice <i>Ian McGonagle, Ian Baguley, Sara Owen and Sarah Lewis</i>	23
3 Working in partnership <i>Anne Beales and Gary Platz</i>	39
4 Respecting diversity through acknowledging, valuing and using diversity and challenging inequalities (AVUDCI) <i>Premila Trivedi</i>	53

5	Practising ethically: values-based practice and ethics – working together to support person-centred and multidisciplinary mental health care	79
	<i>Bill Fulford and Kim Woodbridge</i>	
6	Challenging inequality	105
	<i>David Pilgrim</i>	
7	Promoting recovery	119
	<i>Daniel B. Fisher</i>	
8	Identifying people’s needs and strengths	141
	<i>Lesley Warner</i>	
9	Providing service user centred care	157
	<i>Laura Lea</i>	
10	Making a difference	173
	<i>Norman Young, Madeline O’Carroll and Lorraine Rayner</i>	
11	Positive risk taking: a framework for practice	195
	<i>Anne Felton and Gemma Stacey</i>	
12	Personal development and learning	213
	<i>Sharon Lee Cuthbert and Thurstine Basset</i>	
	PART II: ISSUES FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE	233
13	Social perspectives on mental distress	235
	<i>Jerry Tew</i>	

14	Socially inclusive practice	253
	<i>Peter Bates and Joanne Seddon</i>	
15	Equality and rights: Overcoming social exclusion and discrimination	271
	<i>Liz Sayce</i>	
16	Service user involvement	291
	<i>Peter Campbell</i>	
17	Connecting the parts to the whole: Achieving effective teamwork in complex systems	311
	<i>Steve Onyett</i>	
18	Problems associated with the use of the concept 'mental illness'	329
	<i>Anne Cooke</i>	
19	Drugs, alcohol and mental health	347
	<i>Tabitha Lewis and Alison Cameron</i>	
20	Gender inequality and the mental health of women and men	381
	<i>Jennie Williams and Joe Miller</i>	
21	The trauma model of psychosis	401
	<i>Paul Hammersley, Peter Bullimore, Magdalen Fiddler and John Read</i>	

PART III: APPROACHES FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE	417
22 Carers' experiences of mental health services and views about assessments: Lessons from the Partnership in Carer Assessments Project (PICAP)	419
<i>Julie Repper, Gordon Grant, Mike Nolan and Pam Enderby</i>	
23 Therapeutic relationships	439
<i>Theo Stickley and Dawn Freshwater</i>	
24 Psychological approaches to mental health	463
<i>Rufus May, Anne Cooke and Anthony Cotton</i>	
25 Employment: What you should know and what you should do	479
<i>Bob Grove</i>	
26 Treating creatively: The challenge of treating the creative mind	495
<i>Peter Amsel</i>	
27 Social inclusion and psychosocial interventions: Clash, compromise or coherence?	511
<i>Peter Bates and Julie Cullen</i>	
28 Spirituality and mental health	531
<i>Peter Gilbert</i>	
29 Holistic approaches in mental health	555
<i>Jan Wallcraft</i>	

30 The capable practitioner
of the future

Theo Stickley and Thurstine Basset

571

Index

575

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Preface

This book is written for students of mental health. It closely follows another book published by Wiley called *Teaching Mental Health*, which we have also edited. The first book is written as a kind of handbook of ideas for people involved in teaching and training students to prepare for mental health practice. What the two books have in common (as well as the editors) is that they have both been authored not just by academic ‘experts’ or policy writers, but also practitioners and people who are experts by their own experience of mental health problems and using mental health services. This is an important factor when you come to study sections of this book, because it is intended to be relevant and to incorporate service user perspectives as well as the views of researchers, professionals and academics.

This is not a book about medical diagnosis and treatment, neither is it a book just for nurses or social workers. What we have attempted is to present major issues and approaches that are relevant to mental health for practitioners from all professions in the 21st Century. This book is not intended to replace other medically oriented books, but it is intended to help students of mental health to think about much broader perspectives than the medical model offers. Modern problems require modern solutions and approaches; this book highlights what some of those solutions and approaches are. Although most of the contributors are from the UK, we are pleased to include contributions from people in Canada, the USA and New Zealand.

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We would like to express our thanks to Peter Lindley, formerly of the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, who made a significant contribution to the ideas developed in this book.

- teams (*continued*)
 learning 321–3
 members 311–13, 321–2, 324–6
 motivations 312–14
 needs 321–5
 ‘nominal teams’ 313
 objectives 311–28
 organisational structures 321–2
 power relations 314–15
 problems 324–6
 reflective practices 324–5
 respect principle 313
 responsibilities 324
 reviews 313
 strengths-based approaches 325–6
 types 316–21
 uses 311
 vision 312–13, 321–3
- temazepam 363
- Ten Essential Shared Capabilities
see also Essential Shared Capabilities;
individual capabilities
 assumptions 25–8
 case studies 18, 28–34
 cognitive/behavioural implementation
 level 27–8
 concepts 2–4, 14–20, 23–38, 98, 235,
 266, 291, 571
 conflicting capabilities 26–7
 definition 14
 development 2–4, 14–17
 implementation methods 3, 17–19,
 23–38
 induction programmes 18–19
 list of elements 2–4, 14–17
 more in-depth learning materials
 18–19, 33–4, 152–5, 190
 overview 2–4, 14–17
 positive impacts 28–34
 in practice 23–38
 professions 18
 standards 26
 summary 14–17
 training critique 18, 33–4
- TEPs *see* transitional employment
 placements
- terminology 292–3, 475–6
- terrorist attacks 539–40
- Tew, Jerry 4, 235–52
- Thatcher, Margaret 272
- THC 365
see also cannabis
- ‘them-and-us’ thinking 338
- theories of being human 445–8
- theorist learning style 229
- ‘therapeutic community’ 350
- therapeutic relationships
see also relationships
 bad practices 457–9
 being 440, 454–5
 boundaries 452–4, 459
 ‘busyness’ issues 454–5
 communications 454
 compassion 440, 449–51, 459
 concepts 4, 439–61, 469–71, 516–20,
 557–8, 573–4
 definition 439–40
 ‘do unto others. . .’ principle 459–60
 doing 440, 452–4
 domains 440–55
 essential subjects 452–4
 extrinsic domain 440, 451–5
 good practices 456–9, 573–4
 humanistic theories 447–8, 470
 intrinsic domain 440–51
 love needs 449–51, 557–8
 PSI 516–20
 psychological theories 445–8, 469–71
 RCTs 452, 471–2, 574
 responsibilities 452, 453–4
 roles 452–3
 sexual relationships 459
 unconditional positive regard 439–40,
 448
 understanding 440–8, 476–7, 573–4
- third-party interests, mental health
 services 111–12
- Thorn Nurse Initiative 514
- Thornicroft, Graham 274
- tidal model 149
- timeline tool, substance use 369–70
- Together 42–4, 48–50, 170, 298,
 308
- Tolkien, J.R.R. 533
- Touched with Fire* (Jamison) 502, 509
- traffic lights, social inclusion 255–7
- Training and Development for Health
 322

- training issues 2–5, 12–20, 23–38, 45–52,
 98, 213–32, 266–7, 300–1, 321–3,
 383–400, 429, 486, 514–16, 549–51
see also education. . .; learning
 access to resources 231–2
 carers' needs 429
 critique 2–5, 19–20, 33–4, 50–2,
 300–1
 ESC implementation 3, 17–20, 23–38
 gap analysis 266–7
 Mental Health First Aid 486, 494
 partnerships 45–52, 231–2
 PSI 2–5, 514–16
 service user action 300–1
 social inclusion 260–1
 spirituality 549–51
 staff 2–5, 12–14, 17–20, 33, 37, 45–52,
 213–32, 266–7, 321–3, 383–400,
 429, 514–16
 teams 321–3
 Ten Essential Shared Capabilities 3,
 14–20, 23–38, 98
 well-being 45–50
 work/life balance 45–6
 transference 402–3, 445–7
 transitional employment placements
 (TEPs) 482
 transtheoretical model of change 371–4
 trauma 4, 185–7, 235–43, 248, 348–52,
 401–16, 444, 463–4, 513–14, 573
 Bebbington *et al* study (2004) 406, 408
 case studies 348–52, 401, 413–14
 catastrophic interaction model 410
 children 401–16, 444, 445–7, 513–14,
 573
 concepts 4, 401–16, 444, 463–4,
 513–14, 573
 cross-diagnostic phenomenon 410–12
 denials 403–4, 446
 depression 404, 411–12, 463–4, 513–14
 dissociation models 409–10, 413–14
 early studies 405
 evidence 404–14
 Janssen *et al* study (2003) 405–6, 408
 later studies 405–8
 marginalisation of psychosis 404
 mental disorders 185–7, 235–40,
 401–16, 445–7, 513–14, 573
 psychoanalysis 402–3
 psychosis 4, 185–7, 235–40, 401–16,
 444, 445–7, 513–14, 520, 573
 PTSD 348–52, 405, 408
 Spataro *et al* study (2004) 407–8
 Spauwen *et al* study (2006) 407, 408
 stress/vulnerability model 185–7,
 235–43, 248, 401–16, 513–29
 Whitfield *et al* study (2005) 406,
 408
 treatments
 see also interventions; recovery
 abusive therapists 112
 advance directives/statements 150–1,
 152, 208
 alcohol 349–52, 375–9
 anxiety 29–31, 466, 561–3
 art therapy 465–7
 behavioural theory 447, 469, 520
 bipolar affective disorder 502–5
 brief therapy 169
 CAT 230–1, 351–2
 CBT 30–1, 91–3, 174–8, 183–4, 187,
 230–1, 349–52, 447, 464–7, 469,
 482, 487, 513–14, 520
 cognitive theory 447, 560
 community psychology 470, 473–4
 conceptions 339
 creativity effects 5, 502–8
 depression 29–33, 143, 159–60, 173–4,
 361, 366, 464–7, 469, 484–5,
 502–8, 532–4, 561–3, 567–8
 devalued persons 10
 ECT 151, 299, 302, 333
 ethics 507–8
 evidence-based practice 13, 16–17, 80,
 82, 85–6, 95–6, 99, 173–93,
 315–16, 339, 451–2, 471–2,
 524–5, 555–6, 563–5, 574
 group therapy 30–1, 121, 521–2
 harsh treatments 333
 holistic approaches 2–5, 149, 235–52,
 341, 475, 540–1, 555–70, 574
 humanistic theories 447–8, 470,
 531–53
 information 468, 560–1
 insulin shock treatment 573
 knowledge bodies 112–16
 medical model 164, 467–8, 508–9,
 571, 574

- treatments (*continued*)
- medications 5, 87–90, 126–7, 145, 159–60, 185–6, 280, 297, 319–20, 349, 366, 375, 449, 464–8, 502–8, 527, 533–4, 562–3
 - mental illness concepts 339, 476
 - psychological approaches 4–5, 445–8, 463–78
 - reactive treatments 507–9
 - schizophrenia 33, 91–3, 119–22, 133–9, 173–4, 180, 185–7, 401, 412–14, 513–29, 572–3
 - selection considerations 468–9
 - social constructionist approaches 470–1
 - socio-economic inequalities 2, 105–6, 111–18
 - solutions-focused therapy 325, 471
 - substance use 347, 349–52, 373–9
 - talking treatments 449–51
- Trivedi, Premila 3, 53–78
- true/false statements, substance use 362–5
- trusting relationships 25, 123, 130–9, 203–7, 246–7, 439–61, 516–20, 572–4
- see also* Ten Essential Shared Capabilities; therapeutic. . .
- Tuke, William 479
- ‘two-feet’ principle 86, 95
- Ulysses contracts, advance directives 151
- unconditional positive regard, therapeutic relationships 439–40, 448
- understanding
- different frameworks 476–7
 - psychological theories 445–8, 476–7
 - service user action 301
 - therapeutic relationships 440–8, 476–7, 573–4
- unemployment
- see also* inequalities
 - journey 482–7
 - mental health status 4–5, 106–7, 167–8, 237–9, 253–4, 271–4, 282–4, 287–9, 291, 333, 341, 470, 479–94, 513–14, 524–5
 - well-being 479–80
- UNICEF/WHO, Declaration of Alma Ata 1978 294
- universe, secrets 535
- unmet needs 147
- unqualified staff 525–6
- uppers/downers/all-rounders, substances 358–65, 378
- urban life, socio-economic inequalities 109, 237–9, 402, 433–4, 444
- urine tests, substance use 365–6
- US, New Freedom Commission on Mental Health 119, 136
- use of force 457
- users 1–5, 10–28, 31, 32, 35–7, 81–2, 85–95, 110, 113–15, 137, 141–55, 157–72, 195–212, 237–8, 253–69, 271–90, 291–309, 319–20, 332–41, 347–80, 511–28, 571–4
- see also* discrimination; needs; service user. . . ; strengths; Ten Essential Shared Capabilities
- advance directives/statements 150–1, 152, 208
- advocates 146, 157, 161–2, 255, 297–8, 317, 341, 572–3
- citizenship concepts 24, 244–5, 257, 276, 288, 333–4, 545, 573
- concerns 10–12, 14, 19, 24–5, 114–15, 159–72, 254–6, 294–8, 304–7, 427–37, 474–5, 526–8, 559–61
- consumerism 23–4, 26–7, 272, 534–5
- diagnosis effects 332–41
- facilitators 19
- feedback 10–12, 14, 114–15, 159–60, 171, 184, 254–5, 294–5, 348–52, 474–5, 526–8, 559–61
- goals 16, 26–8, 39–52, 113–15, 129–39, 157–72, 173–4, 179–91, 259–60, 291–8, 315–16, 513, 515–20
- holistic approaches 2–5, 559–61, 574
- human rights 15, 34–5, 83, 91–3, 157, 159–62, 333–4, 572–3
- involvement 4, 149–50, 154, 291–309, 331, 471, 474–7
- objectives 12, 16, 26–8, 113–15, 129–39, 291–8, 513, 515–20, 527
- partnerships 4, 14–20, 24–38, 39–52, 86, 119–39, 141–55, 195–212, 291–309, 319–22, 513–29, 573

- person-centred care 4, 10–12, 16–17, 19–20, 26–8, 33, 36, 43–4, 79–103, 141–50, 153–4, 157–72, 198, 206–8, 259–60, 291–309, 518–28
 positive risk taking 17, 19, 26–7, 36–7, 195–212
 social inclusion 4, 5, 246–7, 248, 253–69, 271–90, 511–28
 substance use 81–2, 110, 137, 146, 237–8, 319–20, 347–80
 treatment selections 468–9, 560–1
 users' movements 114–15
 using diversity, concepts 54–5, 65–9, 75–7
 utility concepts, mental illness 330
- valium 390
 values
 concepts 13–14, 16–17, 25–7, 80–103, 451, 525–8
 definition 26, 80–3
 ethics contrasts 80–2, 99
Values into Action (Department of Health) 536
 values-based practice (VBP)
 see also Ten Essential Shared Capabilities
 case studies 81–2, 83–4, 89–90, 93–5
 concepts 2–4, 13–14, 16–17, 25–6, 31, 36, 79–103, 173–93, 451, 525–8, 574
 conclusions 98–9, 574
 definition 79–83
 diversity 97–8
 ethics 82–4, 88–90
 evidence-based practice 80, 85–6, 95–6, 99
 good-process pointers 85–95
 key points 98–9
 Making a Difference... (Essential Shared Capability) 3, 16–17, 31, 36, 173–93
 National Framework for Values 96–8
 partnerships 86
 philosophy 88, 98–100
 pointers to good process 85–95, 99
 Practising Ethically... (Essential Shared Capability) 3, 15, 79–103
 process-focused tools 82, 85–95, 99
 resources 80, 96–8
 respect principle 97–8, 159
 shared framework values 83, 88–90, 99
 skills 83–103
 tools 82
 valuing diversity, concepts 54–5, 60–5, 75–7, 266–7
 van Gogh, Vincent 495, 498–9, 503
 VBP *see* values-based practice
 Venlafaxine 465–6
 'victim-blaming' effects, mental illness
 concepts 338–9
 victimisation experiences, trauma and psychosis 406
 violence 89–90, 93–5, 110, 136, 195–212, 274–5, 348, 387, 394–6, 453–4
 virtue approach, ethics 204–5
 vision, effective teams 312–13, 321–2
 visual hallucinations 413–14
 see also psychosis
 vocational rehabilitation, PSI 174
 volunteers 41–52, 292, 298–9, 308–9, 474
 see also MIND; Rethink; Together
 vulnerability/stress model *see* stress/vulnerability model
- Wallcraft, Jan 5, 555–70
 Warner, Lesley 3, 141–55
 WAT *see* Workforce Action Team
 Watkiss case 278
 'weak ties', cultural and social capital 107–8
 Weber, Max 547
 weight changes, alcohol 366
 Welfare Reform Act 2007 274
 well-being 42–50, 143–7, 157–8, 262–6, 315, 389, 479–82, 533–53, 566
 see also mental health; quality of life
 employment 479–82
 MYCAW 566
 spirituality 533–53
 Wellink 41–2, 44–8
 Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAPs) 157, 165–7, 296
 West Indies, mental health status 109–10, 237–8, 276