Institutional breakdown: exploring mental health nursing practice in acute inpatient settings


Abstract

This book represents a sustained critique of nursing practice within acute inpatient settings. Using the methods of qualitative data gathering and analysis, it documents how the nursing role is hampered by organisational and historical factors over which the nurses have little control. In particular, the manner by which nursing teams have to cope with the everyday minutiae of 'ward management', while attempting to care for disturbed or difficult patients, is closely and critically scrutinised. The book holds out little optimism for change which refuses to embrace radical solutions. To that end, it concludes by recommending the abolition of inpatient settings in their present form.

Item Type: Authored book
Subjects: B000 Health Professions > B700 Nursing and Midwifery
Faculties: Faculty of Health and Social Sciences > School of Nursing and Midwifery
Depositing User: editor snam
Date Deposited: 16 Jan 2007
Last Modified: 18 Jun 2010 11:30
URI: http://eprints.brighton.ac.uk/id/eprint/1211
The aim of this study was to explore mental health nurses' perceptions of their professional practice environment and examine differences in perceptions between nurses working at institutions and those practising in community care. The methodology used was descriptive and comparative. The sample consisted of 248 mental health nurses working within the public sector (76% response rate) drawn from a psychiatric hospital (n = 163) and community settings (n = 85). Feature Article Mental health nurses establishing psychosocial interventions within acute inpatient settings Antony Mullen* Lake Macquarie Mental Health Service, Hunter New England Area Health Service, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. ABSTRACT: Acute inpatient units provide care for the most acutely unwell people experiencing a mental illness. This paper will discuss the problems with mental health nursing practice in acute inpatient units highlighted in the current literature. It will then put forward the argument for routine use of psychosocial interventions as a means of addressing some of these problems. KEY WORDS: acute inpatient unit, mental health nursing, psychosocial intervention.