Mental health nursing and social control

Peter Morrall discusses his new book, in which he argues that instead of seeking to become a profession, mental health nursing should learn how to work with psychiatry again

The mental health industry is in chaos. Practitioners and managers are drowning in a deluge of policy initiatives, legislation, and recommendations from reports and inquiries. In the last few decades, staff in mental health services have had to accommodate the independent sector, disentangle purchasers from providers and separate health care from social care. They have also had to introduce care plans for patients discharged from hospital, offer noncustodial forms of care and treatment to mentally disordered offenders, been told to reduce morbidity and suicide rates among people who are mentally ill, give priority to those placed on supervision registers and implement new mental health legislation.

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• psychiatric - • community mental health nurses - • social control
The WHO defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellness, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Mental health is influenced by individual factors, including biologic makeup, autonomy, and independence, self-esteem, capacity for growth, vitality, ability to find meaning in life, resilience or hardiness, sense of belonging, reality orientation, and coping or stress management abilities; by interpersonal factors, including effective communication, helping others, intimacy, and maintaining a balance of separateness and connectedness; and by social/cultural factors. Nursing interventions: o Direct approach to setting limits. o Take away privileges. o Give the patient some control and choices. Acting out person: • • Loss of rational control. Psychiatric nursing or mental health nursing is the specialty of nursing that cares for people of all ages with mental illness or mental distress, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, psychosis, depression or...