

James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq. Law Project for Psychiatric Rights Jim.Gottstein@PsychRights.org http://PsychRights.org/

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Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights®)

- o Public Interest Law Firm
- Mission: To Mount a Strategic Litigation Campaign Against Forced Psychiatric Drugging and Electroshock.
- National in Scope
- Adopted Drugging of Children & Youth as Priority Few Years Ago

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While Some People find Neuroleptics Helpful . . .

- Psychiatric Drugs Causing Massive Amount of Harm
- o Life Spans Now 25 Years Shorter
- o Halve the Recovery Rate
 - 5% v. 40% recovery Rate in recent study
- 6-fold Increase in Mental Illness Disability Rate
- Current System Does Not Allow Non Drug Choices
- o Hugely and Unnecessarily Expensive
- Huge Unnecessary Human Toll

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Psychiatric Drugging of Children

- o 1 in 23 on stimulants (3.5 million)
 - No long term benefit; short term benefit mainly for adults
- o 1 in 40 on antidepressants
 - Prozac Boys Study: 23% developed manic like symptoms; 19% more drug induced hostility
 - Bipolar Rate soars
 - From close to none in 1995 to 800,000 by 2003
 Then come the neuroleptics & anticonvulsants
 - misbranded as mood stabilizers.
- Many Now on Neuroleptics, even six month olds.
- o Child MH Disability Rate Soars from Essentially Zero in 1987 to 600,000 by 2007.

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Antidepressants

- Increase Suicidality & Violence
- Addictive
- o Lose "effectiveness" over time
- Cause Mania → Bipolar Diagnoses

Source: Brain Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry, Breggin, Springer, 2008

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Anticonvulsants Misbranded as Mood Stabilizers

- o Can Cause:
 - Hostility, Aggression, Depression & Confusion
 - Liver Failure
 - Fatal pancreatitis
 - Severe & lethal skin disorders
- May Cause
 - Mild cognitive impairment with chronic use

Source: Brain Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry, Breggin, Springer, 2008

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- No convincing evidence of short or long term improvement in cognitive ability or academic performance Brain Damage
- Cardiovascular Harm, including cardiac arrest
- Stunts Growth
- Mania, psychosis, hallucinations
- Agitation

- o Aggression
- o Insomnia
- o Depression, suicide
- Headaches Stomach aches
- Obsessive Compulsive
- Behaviors Quadruple Cocaine Abuse Rate
- Many more

Source: Brain Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry, Breggin, Springer, 2008

Benzodiazepines

- o Effective for only a few weeks
- Highly Addictive
 - Some People Simply Can Not Get Off Them
- o Can cause mania
- o Can cause violence

··· Why?

... Is society taking such a harmful, counterproductive approach?

Discussion

Fear and Absolution (Adults)

- Fear
 - People Diagnosed with Serious Mental Illness no More Prone to Violence
- Absolution
 - By Accepting "Medical Model," No one is Responsible

Medical Model

- National Institute of Mental Health:
 - "Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disorder"
 - "Bipolar disorder, also known as manicdepressive illness, is a brain disorder that causes unusual shifts in a person's mood, energy, and ability to function."
 - "Research indicates that depressive illnesses are disorders of the brain."

Source: NIMH website accessed March 23, 2008



The Medical Model, The Hunger Strike and the APA

- 2003 Hunger Strike Challenged American Psychiatric Ass'n to provide reliable scientific evidence of Medical Model and APA essentially admitted it could not.
- Query: Does a headache demonstrate an aspirin deficiency?
- Largest "experiment" demonstrated not genetic.

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Other Factors

- Social Control
 - It is Not the Thinking, but Objectionable Behavior
- FDA Abdication/Capture by Industry
- o Magic Pill/Drug Culture
- o Psychiatry's Drive for Legitimacy
- o Big Pharma Corruption of Research

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Big Pharma Corruption of Process

- Fraudulent Clinical Trials
- o Ghostwritten Articles
- Continued Medical Education Sponsorship
- o Buying "Key Opinion Leaders"
- Drug Detailers/Goodies to Doctors

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Children & Youth

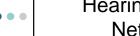
- Drugs are for the convenience of the adults in their lives
- Drug Companies Targeted Children & Youth Market
- o Poor Children & Youth (Medicaid)
 - Disempowered parents
- o Foster Children & Youth
 - God Help Them



Solutions Are Many (Adults)

- o Hearing Voices Network Approach
 - Strange or Unusual Beliefs ("delusions")
- o Psychosocial Approaches
 - Soteria
 - Open Dialogue
 - Peer Directed

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Hearing Voices Network:

- Question is not "what is wrong with you," but "what happened to you?"
- Help People Deal with Voices
- Similar Approach for "Delusions"

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Open Dialogue (Finland)

Five Year Study of Psychotic Patients

- 82% did not have any residual psychotic symptoms;
- 86% had returned to their studies or full-time jobs;
- o only 14% were on disability; and
- 71% never took any neuroleptic medication.

21 Psychotherapy Research, 2006; 16(2):214-28.

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Strategic Litigation (Adults)

- Force System to Honor People's Rights
- Change Path of Least Resistance
- Help Create Environment
 Supportive of Other Choices
- Public Education Potential

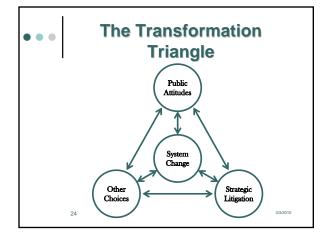
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Goals

- Substantially Increase Recovery Rate after diagnosis of Serious Mental Illness
- Substantially Reduce If Not Eliminate Force
- System Support of People's Non-Medication Choices





PsychRights in Alaska Supreme Court

- o Myers (2006)
 - Best Interests
 - No Less Intrusive Alternative Available
- o Wetherhorn (2007)
 - Unable to Survive Safely in Freedom
 - Not consider Effective Representation Issue
- o Wayne B (2008)
 - Necessity for Transcript by Masters
- o Bigley (2009)
- Available means feasible

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Solutions Are Many (Children & Youth)

- CriticalThinkRx.Org Module 8: Evidence-Based Psychosocial Interventions for Childhood Problems
 - Help Parents
 - Help Children & Youth Deal with Their Emotional Problems

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Strategic Litigation (Children& Youth)

- o PsychRights v. Alaska
- Medicaid Fraud Initiative
 - Model Complaint
- United States ex rel
 PsychRights v. Matsutani, et al.



PsychRights v. Alaska

- Seeks injunction Against State to prohibit State administering or authorizing psych drugs to children & youth unless:
 - Evidence-based psychosocial interventions have been exhausted,
 - Rationally anticipated benefits of psychotropic drug treatment outweigh the risks,
 - The person or entity authorizing administration of the drug(s) is fully informed, and
 - Close monitoring of, and appropriate means of responding to, treatment emergent effects are in place.
- Thrown out of Court for Lack of Standing; on Appeal

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Most Psych Drugs Given Children & Youth Through Medicaid is Fraud

- Prescriptions are Medicaid Fraud if not for a "medically accepted indication," meaning, one that is either approved by the FDA or "supported by citations" in one of three drug compendia, including DRUGDEX
- Anyone Can Sue On Behalf of Government to Recover for the Fraud and share in the recovery, if any.

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Medicaid Fraud Initiative

- Designed to Stop Harmful Practice by Causing Doctors (& other defendant classes) to Realize Inviting Financial Ruin if Continue
- Cases Percolating in Various States
- Model Complaint

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Model Medicaid Fraud Complaint

- o Drafted for Former Foster Youth to be
 - But anyone with "non-public" information can be relator
- o Defendants:
 - Prescribers & employers
 - Pharmacies

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\$ Billion Drug Company Settlements Haven't Stopped Practice

- o \$1.4 Billion Lilly/Zyprexa
- \$2.3 Billion Pfizer, including Geodon
- o Cost of doing business.
 - Caps Liability
- Doctors Still Prescribing It
- Medicaid Still Paying



U.S. ex rel PsychRights v. Matsutani et al

- o 32 Defendants
- o Additional Defendant Classes:
 - State Employees
 - Authorize False Medicaid Claims
 - Run Programs Submitting or Causing False Claims to be Submitted
 - Medical Education Provider



Concluding Query

- Is the country going to come to its senses or follow folly's path?
 - Easter Island Inhabitants Cut Down All their Trees to Erect Statues for their Gods, dooming their society
 - Dominican Republic, unlike Haiti, managed its timber resources for future.



Suggested Reading

- Anatomy of an Epidemic, by Robert Whitaker (2010 in press).
- Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine and the Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally III, by Robert Whitaker (2001)
- Alternatives Beyond Psychiatry, Peter Lehman & Peter Stastny, MD, Editors (2007).
- Agnes's Jacket: A Psychologist's Search for the Meaning of Madness, by Gail Hornstein, PhD, Rodale Books, 2009.
- o Drug Induced Dementia, Grace E. Jackson, MD, Author House, 2009.
- A Fight to Be: A Psychologist's Experience from Both Sides of the Locked Door, Ronald Bassman, Ph.D. (2007)
- Rethinking Psychiatric Drugs: A Guide to Informed Consent, by Grace E. Jackson, MD, (2005)
- Brain Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry: Drugs, Electroshock, and the Role of the FDA, Ed. 2 (2008) by Peter Breggin, MD.



Suggested Reading (cont.)

- Community Mental Health: A Practical Guide (1994) by Loren Mosher and Lorenzo Burti
- Soteria: Through Madness to Deliverance, by Loren Mosher and Voyce Hendrix with Deborah Fort (2004
- Psychotherapy of Schizophrenia: The Treatment of Choice (Jason Aronson, 1996), by Bertram P. Karon and Gary R. Vandenbos
- Schizophrenia: A Scientific Delusion, by Mary Boyle, Ph.D. (2002) Let Them Eat Prozac, by David Healy, MD. (2006).
- Creating Mental Illness, by Allan V. Horwitz (2002). Commonsense Rebellion by Bruce E. Levine (2001)
- Blaming the Brain : The Truth About Drugs and Mental Health (1998) by Elliot Valenstein.
- Escape From Psychiatry, by Clover (1999)
- How to Become a Schizophrenic: The Case Against Biological Psychiatry, 3d Ed., by John Modrow (2003)
 Other books at http://psychrights.org/Market/storefront.htm