



The Psychiatric Drugging of America: Who's Crazy?

Anthropology
(Sergei Bogojavlensky Class)
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Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights®)

- 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
- Life Spans Now 25 Years Shorter
- 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
- Hugely and Unnecessarily Expensive
- Huge Unnecessary Human Toll

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Psychiatric Drugging of Children

- 1 in 23 on stimulants (3.5 million)
 - No long term benefit; short term benefit mainly for adults
- 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.
- Child MH Disability Rate Soars from Essentially Zero in 1987 to 600,000 by 2007.

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Antidepressants

- Increase Suicidality & Violence
- Addictive
- 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

- 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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Stimulants

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

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

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Benzodiazepines

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

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Why? . . .

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

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Discussion

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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

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Medical Model

- National Institute of Mental Health:
 - "Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disorder"
 - "Bipolar disorder, also known as manic-depressive 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

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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
- Magic Pill/Drug Culture
- Psychiatry's Drive for Legitimacy
- Big Pharma Corruption of Research

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Big Pharma Corruption of Process

- Fraudulent Clinical Trials
- Ghostwritten Articles
- Continued Medical Education Sponsorship
- 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
- Poor Children & Youth (Medicaid)
 - Disempowered parents
- Foster Children & Youth
 - God Help Them

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Solutions Are Many (Adults)

- Hearing Voices Network Approach
 - Strange or Unusual Beliefs ("delusions")
- 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;
- only 14% were on disability; and
- 71% never took any neuroleptic medication.

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

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

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The Transformation Triangle

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PsychRights in Alaska Supreme Court

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

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

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PsychRights v. Alaska

- Seeks injunction Against State to prohibit State administering or authorizing psych drugs to children & youth unless:
 1. Evidence-based psychosocial interventions have been exhausted,
 2. Rationally anticipated benefits of psychotropic drug treatment outweigh the risks,
 3. The person or entity authorizing administration of the drug(s) is fully informed, and
 4. 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

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

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\$ Billion Drug Company Settlements Haven't Stopped Practice

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

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

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

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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.

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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 Ill*, 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.
- *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 Bfeggin, MD.

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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 Joyce 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>

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