

Message from Chief Editor



Recovery

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Since the last decade, psychiatric rehabilitation has extended its concern from a focus on the alleviation of illness or symptoms to optimizing people's personal functioning. Correspondingly, the key task of psychiatric rehabilitation is to help the people with mental illness to achieve adaptive community functioning in major life domains. The ideas of empowerment, competence and recovery have become the basic philosophy and principles of psychiatric rehabilitation (Stromwall & Huedle, 2003).

In this issue, we have selected "recovery" as the theme for exploring related issues and concerns in psychiatric rehabilitation services. The emphasis of the recovery model encompasses both the internal conditions (i.e., hope and empowerment) and the external conditions (i.e., positive culture of healing) of one's well-being. In 1990s, recovery has become the key concept guiding system reform in both policy and practice in the west (Jacobson & Greenley, 2001). Despite the widespread acceptance of the idea in those countries, how is it developed in Chinese societies has remained a question.

This issue includes papers from a wide array of authors who are working in different psychiatric rehabilitation social service agencies and hospitals. They discuss the essential concepts of the recovery model and its application in various psychiatric rehabilitation services and practices. There is an agency

which has attempted to adopt the principles of evidence-based research to implement the model in real practice. Though it is clear that we are still at the "kicking-off" stage of adopting the model in Chinese societies, the papers stimulate a critical reflection on how we can bring the mental health practice in Hong Kong to a higher level in that direction to help the people in needed.

Three years ago, we reactivated our Journal for publication. It is the plan of the editorial board that in the coming three years, we will strive to promote communication and sharing among mental health practitioners on five themes. These include "addiction" (December 2013 issue), "autism" (June 2014 issue), "old age mental health" (December 2014 issue), "research in mental health" (June 2015 issue) and "dementia" (December 2015 issue). You are cordially invited to submit your papers to this journal and share your thoughts for knowledge advancement in the field.

References

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- Stromwall, L.K., & Hurdle, D. (2003). Psychiatric rehabilitation: An empowerment-based approach to mental health services. *Health Social Work*, 28 (3): 206-213. doi: 10.1093/hsw/28.3.206