

## Policy initiatives to support mental health and recovery in the community

McKenzie, K (Kwame), Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada

The mental health service system needs to change. Spectacular fundamental service innovations such as the recovery approach and attempts to develop service nested in the community can make a difference to outcomes.

Recovery approaches can improve people's lives and the work of Antenna in North London in the 1990s demonstrated what could be achieved when the National Health Service partners with local communities. Better outcomes can be achieved for some of the most marginalized groups - those of African and Caribbean origin with diagnoses of psychosis.

But even if our service response is brilliant the majority of our clients and families with serious mental health problems still have their futures blighted by the stigma of mental health and the increasingly divided social environments of many high income countries.

At times I have felt like one of the clinicians in the hit television show and film MASH. I patch people up and then send my clients back to a world where people with mental health problems die up to two decades earlier and they are less likely to thrive and be physically healthy.

To move towards true equity of opportunity for people with mental health problems we need to support service innovation with action on the social determinants of health. 60% of our health is determined by how we live and where we live.

This talk will present concrete policy developments we have supported that are being implemented internationally, such as the basic income, supportive housing reform and mental health impact assessment. They will improve mental health and recovery. You are invited to listen and steal them.