

Social Work 790-003, Fall 2014: Family Psychoeducation; an evidence based psycho-social intervention for schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illnesses.

Credit Hours: 1

Instructor: James Svensson, LMSW

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Course Description:

This course will cover the theory and some of the research on the psycho-biology of schizophrenia, and how this led to the development of this family of treatments. After discussing the theory behind the approach, students will be trained in Multi-family Psycho-education as developed by Dr. William McFarlane using in class exercises and a mock group. We will also explore what is known about bipolar disorder, how it impacts the individuals with the illness and their families. We will also discuss, compare and contrast McFarlane's approach with Family Focused Treatment, a family intervention for individuals with bipolar disorder that has been created and researched by David Miklowitz.

Course Content:

This course will first cover the psycho-biology of schizophrenia, family factors that either protect or worsen the illness, and the ramifications of the illness for both the individual and his/her family. Next we will explore what and how Family Psychoeducation (FPE) attempts to change and improve the situation for the family and the client. The use of these groups for different illnesses, age groups, or ethnic groups will be discussed, as well as multi-family vs. single family treatment strategies. Research supporting the efficacy of this approach will also be covered. During the latter part of the course the students will learn how to form and run an FPE group. A similar, but shorter, review of bipolar disorder and Family Focused Treatment will be presented.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the psycho-biology of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, the effects of the illnesses on the individual and their families.
2. Educate families and people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder about how to cope with their illness.
3. Use the problem solving method and other FPE techniques to help run or start a group.
4. Discuss the efficacy of these approaches and how they are different from standard treatment for schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.
5. Understand what other illnesses/disabilities this approach has been used with, and conceive of other problems it could be used with.

Relationship to the Four Curricular Themes:

Multiculturalism and Diversity will be addressed through the readings, and class discussion. Since people with schizophrenia, or other severe mental illnesses, are discriminated against and struggle with stigma, stigma reversal is a core value of the FPE approach. FPE has been used in this country with different minorities, and the method has been used in Asia and Europe with equal success.

Social Justice and Social Change, again, this is one of the themes of FPE, because virtually all families and individuals with schizophrenia and other SPMI's struggle against stigma, and it is one of the recurring themes or undercurrents of all FPE work.

Promotion, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation: FPE, and variants, such as the Schizophrenia Prodromal Prevention model, are cutting edge psycho-social treatments for people with schizophrenia and their families, and research has shown better outcomes in repeated studies.

Behavioral and Social Science Research will be incorporated throughout the course in discussions of the treatment model.

Relationship of the course to Social Work Ethics and Values: These issues will be discussed during clinical exercises and mock groups.

Assignments:

- Participation in all course activities, assigned readings and group exercises.
- A short test at the end of the class on the FPE technique.
- Readings

Grading: 50% of the grade will be based on class participation and 50% on the test at the end of class.

Primary Texts or Articles:

McFarlane, W.R., **Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders**, New York, NY, Guilford, 2002

Miklowitz, D.J. **Adjunctive Psychotherapy for Bipolar Disorder: State of the Evidence**, American Journal of Psychiatry 165:11, November 2008 (pp 1408-1419)

Anderson, C. M., et al, *Educating Families, Concepts and Recommendations for Clinicians Who Teach Families How to Manage Schizophrenia*

Selected Reference List:

Anderson, C., Hogarty, G., Reiss, D., **Schizophrenia and the Family**, New York, NY, Guilford Press, 1986

Bebbington P., Kuipers E., **The predictive utility of expressed emotion in schizophrenia: an aggregate analysis**. *Psychological Medicine*, 1994, 24, 707-718

Gice S.J., Kuipers E., Bebbington P., et al **Carers' attributions about positive events in psychosis relate to expressed emotion**. *Behaviour Research and Therapy* 47 (2009) 783-789

Kuipers E., Bebbington P., G. Dunn, D. Fowler, et al. **Influence of career expressed emotion and affect on relapse in non-affective psychosis**. *British Journal of Psychiatry* (2006), 188, 173-179

McFarlane W, Cook W, **Family expressed emotion prior to onset of psychosis**. *Family Process*, 46, (2007) 185-197

McFarlane, W.R. et al.: **From Research to Clinical Practice: Dissemination of New York State's Family Psychoeducation Project**, *Hospital and Community Psychiatry*, Vol. 44, No.3

McFarlane, W.R. et al, **Family Psychoeducation Workbook**, SAMHSA www.samhsa.org

McFarlane, W.R. et al.: **Family Psychoeducation and Schizophrenia: A Review of the Literature**, *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* April 2003, Vol. 29, No. 2, 223-245

McFarlane, W.R. et al.: **Psychoeducation Multiple Family Groups: Four Year Relapse Outcome in Schizophrenia**, *Family Process*, Vol. 34, June 1995, 127-144

Miklovitz D, George E L, et al **A randomized study of Family-Focused Psychoeducation and pharmacotherapy in the outpatient management of bipolar disorder**. *ARCH GEN PSYCHIATRY/VOL 60, SEP 2003*

David Miklovitz, **Bipolar Disorder: A Family-Focused Treatment Approach**, Guilford Press, 2008

Ellen Frank, PhD; David J. Kupfer, MD et al, **Two-Year Outcomes for Interpersonal and Social Rhythm Therapy in Individuals With Bipolar I Disorder** *PhDARCH GEN PSYCHIATRY/VOL 62, SEP 2005*

Lefley, Harriet P, PhD **Cross-Cultural Perspective of Family Psychoeducation**. *Psychiatric Annals* 42.6 (Jun 2012):236-240.

Phyllis E. Smerud and Irwin S. Rosenfarb **The Therapeutic Alliance and Family Psychoeducation in the Treatment of Schizophrenia: An Exploratory Prospective Change Process Study Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice** 2011, Vol. 1(S), 85–91

Alex Kopelowicz, MD; Roberto Zarate, PhD; Charles J. Wallace, PhD **The Ability of Multifamily Groups to Improve Treatment Adherence in Mexican Americans With Schizophrenia** Archives of General Psychiatry/VOL 69 (NO. 3), MAR 2012, 265-273

S. McWilliams, S. Hill, et al, **Schizophrenia: A five-year follow-up of patient outcome following psycho-education for caregivers**, European Psychiatry 27 (2012) 56–61

9-13-2014

Overview of Family Psychoeducation

Overview of the Psychobiology of Schizophrenia and Family Pschoeducation technique

Reading Assignment: Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders, Chapters 1-5 (p. 3-103)

Selecting and Joining with Families for the Group

Family Psychoeducation Workshop

Family Guidelines and Recommendations for Families

Role Play Joining with Families in Class

Reading Assignment: Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders, Chapters 6 & 7 (p. 104-126)

Anderson, C. M., et al, *Educating Families, Concepts and Recommendations for Clinicians Who Teach Families How to Manage Schizophrenia* (on c-tools)

Overview of First and Second Groups

Role Play First and Second Groups

Reading Assignment: Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders, Chapter 8

Demonstration of Problem Solving with class

9-20-2014

**Overview of the “Problem Solving Method” and Group Format for the Groups
Role Play Problem Solving Session**

Reading Assignment: Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders, Chapter 9

**Overview of other FPE variations and Family Focused Treatment with specific
focus on bipolar disorder.
Discussion of PODS issues**

Reading Assignment: Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders, Chapters 12 & 13

Miklowitz, D.J. **Adjunctive Psychotherapy for Bipolar Disorder: State of the Evidence**, American Journal of Psychiatry 165:11, November 2008 (pp 1408-1419)
PDF on C-tools

Test