

Notes from Open Space Topic Convenors

What was your topic or practice?

Provision of mental health services in a healing health environment.

What were major discussion points?

Holistic mental health; what if hospital psychiatric units did not exist? How would crises be handled? What would a relationship-centered wellness mental health model look like as opposed to a disease model? The emphasis needs to be on health and address folks as people, not as diagnoses. Problems of transitions between levels of care. Violence in the mental health setting, and how we care for caregivers has an impact on the care provided. What is the role of medication—it is over-utilized, but it has a role and how people learn about medication is important.

What did you learn?

Discussed the use of people-centered teams concepts with mental health patients. Offering the tools we use ourselves as part of the therapeutic process. The patient has a responsibility, at some level, to manage their own condition and society often takes that control away. As in any healing health setting, the physical environment plays a large role—music, art, and nature all are part of healing.

Whom should we contact for more information?

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Who helped create this new practice?

Gordon Norman, Toni Pusateri, Rex Auter, and Mary Laubinger.