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The evolution of psychopathology in social work

The term psychopathology dates back to the ancient civilization of Hippocrates and Aristotle. Yet, it did not gain wide acceptance in practice until advocates like Freud, Kraepelin, and Meyer applied it to practice with clients. The acceptance of psychopathology in practice has been slow and tumultuous. The National Association of Social Workers stated that a vast majority of providers of mental health services in the United States are social workers. For mental health practice, the most widely used assessment system has been and is the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health, DSM. About 20% of Americans have experienced psychiatric disorders, and this figure is expected to be increasing. Despite one's career path within the field of social work, practitioners are more than likely going to encounter clients with a mental illness. Thus, those who work with the mentally ill will need to learn how to decipher the DSM format.

Biography

Victor Aeby's focus and orientation, the scholarship of health inequities, builds on evidence-based interventions and research provided by successful community-engaged institutional and multidisciplinary partnerships linked to effective prevention and intervention. He is interested in how new technologies such as Tele Therapy, which can be used to reach young people experiencing academic and behavioral difficulties including mental health, bullying, and misuse of illegal and prescription drugs. He wants his research to inform prevention and intervention in health education as well as other disciplines. Further, he believes that research can improve the health and wellbeing of students, community partners, colleagues, and clients locally and internationally. Bridging the gaps between education and the health needs of constituents is a lifelong venture, one that he embraces.

Tracy Carpenter-Aeby is a professor, clinical social worker, supervisor and an *intervention researcher*. She is devoted to integrating research and teaching into professional practice to improve the lives of clients. She is also dedicated to mentoring students and shepherding professionals so that they may contribute to changes in policy and improvements in practice for the wellbeing of clients. Her intentional, thoughtful, strategic study of social injustices through the lens of intervention research promises transformational changes in the quality of life for clients by building on evidence-based practice. Working with students who enter the social work profession and, often, practice in underserved, rural communities gratifies her. Through her research, she has helped to alter the fabric of those communities by preparing practitioners armed with evidence-based practice and trained to facilitate intentional, deliberate, life-affirming change with vulnerable clients.

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