



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 28.08.2023

Article link : <https://bit.ly/3OWWF3I> (Unmade Beds : Rethinking the mental health system amid a shortage of psychiatric beds)

1. According to the article, mental health advocates have always "run into a contradiction" when it comes to inpatient psychiatric wards because:

- A. While psychiatric wards provide poor care and punish people who deviate from societal norms, the alternatives are just as harrowing
- B. While psychiatric wards can be a drain on insurance and potential Medicaid reimbursements, there is an increase in fearmongering about people with mental illness being violent
- C. While there is an acute shortage of beds, especially with the pandemic, the shortage is a radical chance to reconsider how we care for those in acute stages of psychiatric crisis
- D. While newly-built psychiatric wards have a non-institutional feel, older ones were ugly, providing poor and even dangerous care

Explanation : A

Refer to the lines, 'Mental health advocates have always run into a contradiction when it comes to inpatient psychiatric wards. In addition to sometimes providing poor or even dangerous care, psychiatric wards can represent an extension of the criminal justice system, punishing people who deviate from societal norms, especially in cases of compulsory treatment. On the other hand, as the lack of community services following the widespread closure of asylums in the late sixties and early seventies made clear, the alternative to hospitalization can be just as harrowing: long-term prison sentences, homelessness, death.'

2. The mental health system, according to the article, is "broken" as:

- A. Many people are not able to voluntarily access help before they are in crisis while some patients are held against their will
- B. There is a failure of engagement and follow-up, with psychiatric hospitals not being rooted in reality
- C. In many cases, mental health callouts are handled by the police without support from peers or mental health first responders
- D. All the above

Explanation: D

All given points are mentioned in the article.

3. Effective alternatives to status quo, according to the article, include all the following except:

- A. Diversion through peer crisis respites or stabilization centers instead of hospitals
- B. Expansion of Assisted Outpatient Treatment under Kendra's Law
- C. A person to support transition back into the community after the crisis period and housing that is ready to accept people regardless of mental health history
- D. A place to learn new skills and build community, like Fountain House

Explanation: B

According to the article, mental health advocates and civil liberty groups are opposed to the expansion of Assisted Outpatient Treatment under Kendra's Law.