Chapter 11&12 Summary

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Chapter 11 touches on psychotic disorders and the specific psychotic disorder known as schizophrenia. The content in this chapter is very relative with some of the clients at my field placement, which is known as Signal Centers, Inc. This agency is a day-care center for children and adults that are struggling with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, aphasia, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, and traumatic brain injury (TBI). One of the participants is diagnosed with schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is a condition where there isn't any specific type of symptoms. It can't be solved with just medication alone and most of the time would take an entire treatment team to collaborate and monitor the behavioral progress of the patient that is struggling with schizophrenia.

One of the major struggles that many patients and families of those patients who are diagnosed with schizophrenia face are the negative stereotypes such as being labeled as "psycho", "maniac", or "schizo" by the mainstream media. These stereotypes come from misinformation which continues to bring harm and negative bias surrounding those who struggle with this condition. Research has shown that people who are diagnosed with this illness do not commit very many violent crimes. However, patients with schizophrenia are more than likely to try to harm themselves than attacking someone else. With this type of condition, medication is useful but should not be the only intervention at use.

Most importantly, social workers should understand that specific verbal therapy interventions are only useful if the patient is stabilized. It is also important for social workers to continue to educate families and caregivers about schizophrenia and stress the importance of emotional support with their family member that is struggling with the illness.

Chapter 12 in the book discusses and gives a review of why the information discussed in the book is important for social workers to have knowledge of. It delves into the importance of assessments and how it can help bring around better treatment plans for the patients. In a hospital or mental health setting, it is very important for the social worker to understand or become familiar with the different types of medications that are often used for their patients with various types of behavioral issues and mental health conditions.

When assessing a client, it is also important for the social worker to take into account the patient's lifestyle. Oftentimes, American society has become so obsessed with quick fixes and just giving out medications to the patient as if it's just going to solve the issue overall. Therefore, the medication industry has become a multi-billion-dollar business. Outside of prescribing medication to the patient, there are safer and natural ways to help a patient to be able to improve their health. This involves looking at how much the patient may exercise and what their sleeping patterns are like. Another factor is looking at their diet and what they consume at each meal. These are some simple factors that should be assessed within a patient's treatment plan in which many mental health professionals often overlook.

Finally, the chapter ends with discussing the importance of social workers being one of the leading professions in the United States providing social services. In the field of behavioral and mental health, it is crucial that social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and nurses collaborate and work together to help their clients. However, social workers have a very important role in helping to promote and advocate for the well-being of the client. This involves one of the NASW Social Work values which is "dignity and worth of the person." Therefore,

social workers must demonstrate their knowledge of interventions that would be most beneficial

to the patient.

References

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