



SPECIAL EDITION

**Mental Health Services, Programs, and Policies Oriented by Recovery and
Citizenship Around the World**

INTRODUCTION

This special issue is a product of a collaboration between Yale School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Program for Recovery and Community Health, Yale Latino Recovery Colectivo, and the Brazilian Mental Health Journal. The journal contains 18 descriptive accounts of recovery-oriented programmatic developments across the globe, along with five narrative accounts of people who have seen first-hand the reality of recovery either in their own lives or in the lives of people they have supported. This issue was organized in 2 parts: part 1 presents conceptual articles about the concepts of recovery, citizenship, and peer support; and, part 2 presents how these concepts apply to the context of mental health services. The journal has a special section named The Art Journal. National and international artists from the United States and Brazil, who have lived experience, present perspectives on recovery through art. The Art Journal contains 25 products, such as 2 craftworks, 8 poetry, 2 engravings, 10 paintings, 2 stories, and 1 narrative. What results is a kaleidoscopic collection of breakthroughs in hope and inspiration, redemption, restoration, and the emergence of new and innovative applications of recovery principles and practices in new ways, with new populations, and in new settings. While drawing consistently from the initial work done in envisioning new forms of recovery and mental health practice in the English-speaking world (e.g., the US, the UK, and Australia and New Zealand), these contributions both confirm the value of existing programs (e.g., peer support) and offer a glimpse into some new directions that are responsive to current realities.

For example, several articles emphasize the importance and role of what is being described as “collective citizenship” as a complement to, and reinforcer of, the more individual form of citizenship introduced by Rowe in the 1990s. Several articles also highlight and expand on the importance of connections between mental health services and the broader community, through which persons in recovery are able to discover and value the contributions they can and do make to the lives of others, including through such time-tested models as the social cooperatives introduced in Trieste, Italy in the

1980s. A relatively more recent development has been the intertwining of recovery and trauma, pointing to the collective needs of displaced and otherwise marginalized populations who can benefit from communal forms of healing, whether or not their suffering fits within a traditional diagnostic framework.

The recovery narratives that follow these programmatic developments reinforce the power of relationships in igniting and supporting processes of recovery in persons with a variety of challenges. Whether through one-on-one relationships with a peer support provider, through mutual support groups, or through peer-led programs, these narrative accounts offer inspiring glimpses into the rich, rewarding, and ultimately restorative interactions that come about between persons who have been traumatized, have experienced their own mental distress, and/or are well-meaning and compassionate allies. Like the programmatic descriptions they follow, these narratives are a source both of inspiration and instruction for more future breakthroughs.

Good reading,

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