

Forensic Issues in Community Psychiatry

Chad Koyanagi, MD

Track: Clinical

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (1.5)

POST TBD

Narrative

A career in community psychiatry is not typically thought of as one heavily inundated with forensic psychiatry issues. Given the enormity of homelessness amongst the severely mentally ill in Hawaii, as well as treatment access issues, it is becoming more the norm that a community psychiatrist has to have a skillset in dealing with psychiatric issues. In the outpatient setting these include: familiarity in the Assisted Community Treatment law, assessing for competency and helping clients obtain legal guardianship, interfacing with agencies like Adult Protective Services, advocating for homeless patients in acute care hospitals when such hospitals try to justify discharging very sick patients by peculiar interpretations of decisional capacity, and understanding legal encumbrances such as probation, parole, and mental health court. In addition, service programs helping the homeless in Hawaii increasingly involve legal issues: law enforcement assisted diversion, police Crisis Intervention teams, and oral ex-parte's. Working in a community setting like a community hospital, one needs familiarity with civil commitment, Orders to Treat, Conditional Release, and legal guardians. Finally, we examine the complicated process of treating some of the most severely ill, chronically homeless individuals, which involved guardianship, civil commitment, police assistance, and use of long-acting injectable antipsychotic medications.

BIO

Chad Koyanagi, MD

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Chad is part of a "Street Team" of professionals in Oahu that are successfully working to reduce homelessness.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe three various ways a psychiatrist working in intensive outpatient programs may interface with the legal system.
2. Summarize the legal tools available to help the most gravely and chronically ill individuals.
3. Explain the impact of long-acting injectable medications on severely mentally ill individuals.