A Brief Annotated Bibliography on Mental Health and Deafness

Read These First!


Excellent article explaining the significance of language dysfluency among deaf community.


Part of the Cultural Diversity Series published by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, this book lays out a theoretical and practical model for the development of mental health programming for deaf people.


Glickman’s newest book. This volume presents a state of the art account of the clinical specialty of mental health care of deaf people. Each chapter contains numerous clinical case studies and places a heavy emphasis on providing practical intervention strategies in an interesting, easy to read style. All mental health professionals who work with deaf individuals will find this to be an invaluable resource for creating and maintaining culturally affirmative treatment with this population. (Note: ODS staff have two chapters in this book)


Important for working with deaf and hard of hearing with dysfluency.


Dr. Gutman’s volume explores several facets of ethical practice working with Deaf people. This is essential for individuals who are concerned with “doing the right thing.”


National report on reducing seclusion and restraint with deaf people focuses on the failure of traditional programs to meet the linguistic and cultural needs of deaf people.

These publications are really important


Excellent article demonstrating the statistics of hearing loss and psychiatric diagnoses.


In this article, numerous examples of sign language dysfluency are offered along with a discussion of their implications for interpreting, especially in mental health settings.


Revised: 23 October 2013
The authors have been developing the demand control schema (DC-S) and their practice-profession approach to community interpreting since 1995. With its early roots pertaining to occupational health in the interpreting field, DC-S has evolved into a holistic work analysis framework which guides interpreters in their development of ethical and effective decision-making skills.


The author, who is also a social worker, details her personal experience as a patient and how ineffective services were toward her recovery process.


Discussion of how to change approach from working with hearing substance abuse users to deaf and hard deaf substance abuse users to deaf and hard of hearing substance abuse users along with the mental illness.


Examines the use of an effective statewide model to serve emotionally disturbed deaf children.


This article explores issues related to using interpreters in clinical settings and makes specific recommendations regarding how it maximize effectiveness of this approach.


Exploration on how visually-oriented deaf learners acquire knowledge while growing up in a society that relies primarily on audition. These deaf learners think and view the world differently from the majority. "Aspects of the Deaf episteme, not caused by deafness but by Deafhood, have a positive impact on how deaf individuals learn, resist audism, stay healthy, and navigate the world." pp. 486


This opinion paper considers the need for enhanced clinical skills and knowledge to fulfill the role of a Specialist Nurse in the field of Mental Health & Deafness.


This study examines the role of linguistic ability in relation to cognition, social cognition, and functional outcome among deaf adults with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.


An exploration of mental health professionals' experiences of empathy in clinical work with an interpreter.


The significance of communication access among deaf people needing mental health services.

These are interesting when you have time:

Revised: 20 April 2011


Provides terms, definitions, and examples of commonly used psychiatric vocabulary.


The study of voice-hallucinations in deaf individuals, who exploit the visuomotor rather than auditory modality for communication, provides rare insight into the relationship between sensory experience and how “voices” are perceived.


This study looked at the average length of hospital stay for inpatients in a specialist deaf mental health service over a 10-year period, in comparison to that of a general psychiatric hearing cohort.


A groundbreaking article explaining the difficulty of using standardized psychological test with deaf people.


Archival data of seclusion and restraint events in a group of deaf adults was compared with a random sample of hearing adults with intellectual disabilities and a random sample of hearing adults without ID admitted to a state hospital from 1998 to 2008.


Excellent introductory article to Deaf community’s self-definition and views on society.


Great discussion about the number of deaf elders doubling over the next half century and how to recognize specific concerns in order to be effective in therapy.


Those with superior level of spoken language had fewer peer relationship problems in mainstream education, but significantly more in segregated schools.


Jack Gannon’s inspiring encyclopedic study of events and people that have made significant impacts on the lives of Deaf people in America.

This paper examines difficulties in performing a mental status examination with deaf patients.


An outstanding book on cultural appropriate approaches. Especially good are the first three chapters.


Examines the use of healthy deaf families as therapeutic foster care options for emotionally disturbed deaf children.


Adding to Dr. Harvey’s essential works on psychotherapy and deafness, this volume looks at the special needs of those who are hard of hearing or late deafened.


This study examined the diagnostic and clinical features of deaf psychiatric inpatients.


This article reviews the current research literature related to the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of culturally Deaf individuals suffering mental disorders.


A collection of chapters on approaches for working with different types of deaf people.


Demonstrates the difference between total communication vs. oral approach and its impact on deaf children—also discusses early intervention program to reduce behavior issues.

Good foundation for creating a model to serve those victims and what to do to get there.


A review of the literature relating to the psychological treatment needs of deaf mentally disordered offenders residing in high secure settings was conducted.


This article explores the issues of using interpreters and assessment with deaf mental health clients, regarding: issues with testing, reporting, and interpreter use; assessment of persons with diminished capacity; and assessment of psychiatric populations.


Effective techniques for deaf students with impulse control are discussed here.


Good introduction into psychology and deaf people for those interested in pursuing this field.


This study indicates that Deaf women, children, and non-Caucasians were underrepresented in the sample group as well as male and elderly DHH patients being overrepresented.


Oliver Sacks researched language acquisition and deafness and reached a surprising conclusion regarding how American Sign Language enhances learning in Deaf children.

While existing research suggests vulnerability of the deaf community to trauma, very little data exists on prevalence, symptom manifestation, and/or unique characteristics of the response of deaf adults and children to traumatic events. In this research, 79 deaf adults were interviewed with the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale, the Life Event Checklist, the Trauma Symptom Inventory, the Peritraumatic Distress Scale, and the Somatoform Dissociation Questionnaire.


Early researchers into child development and deafness, the authors examine Deaf children from an Eriksonian perspective. Still one of the most widely used frameworks for discussing healthy development in deaf children.


Deaf children who were abused and received therapy had fewer behavior issues than deaf children not receiving therapy was the focus of this study.


This research indicates the beneficial effects of total communication in all areas of deaf children's development, whether psychosocial, linguistic, or academic is effective.


Issues regarding the ability of hearing therapists to effectively work with Deaf clients are addressed, and a number of guidelines are offered to assist hearing therapists in bridging language barriers and cultural gaps with Deaf clients.