CMHJ Editorial Comments for November 2015 Issue

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In this issue we have included several articles that reflect some components of Narrative Medicine. Part of the mission statement of the Columbia Program of Narrative Medicine (<http://narrativemedicine.org>) notes “Narrative Medicine fortifies clinical practice with the narrative competence to recognize, absorb, metabolize, interpret, and be moved by the stories of illness.” Often in academic medical scholarly writings, research findings are reported in graphs and figures. The prose, while enlightening and instructive, may feel barren and bereft of any emotional content. We are trained to be objective, to report and receive findings in a structured, clinical, and/or scientific fashion. However, at times the inclusion of actual patient or provider comments can elucidate the meaning and impact of illness and treatment in a far more instructive fashion. Let us know if articles are helped or hindered by the inclusion of these narratives.

Please be aware that the Board of the American Association of Community Psychiatrists continues to move forward with strategizing how to meet the needs of our constituencies, including you, our readers. As such, revised mission and vision statements have been developed, are posted on our website, and are as follows:

Mission Statement The mission of the American Association of Community Psychiatry is to promote health,

recovery and resilience in people, families and communities by inspiring and supporting psychiatrists, and in transforming behavioral health care.

Vision Statement:

1. Advocate and partner to implement resiliency and recovery oriented services and continuously improving systems for those we serve.
2. Create and sustain a professional community for those who work in public, community and non-traditional service settings.
3. Develop and disseminate knowledge and skills for effective and sustainable practices and systems to advance population health
4. Influence health and social policies to develop and sustain coordinated public health and clinical delivery systems that are aligned with compatible funding and payment methods, guided by principles of social justice and evidence-informed clinical practices, and supplied by a systems-ready workforce.

Join in, and participate in the evolution and transformation of community psychiatry!

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