PRACTICAL SOCIAL WORK

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The British Association of Social Workers has always been conscious of its role in setting guidelines for practice and in seeking to raise professional standards. The conception of the Practical Social Work series arose from a survey of BASW members to discover where they, the practitioners in social work, felt there was the most need for new literature. The response was overwhelming and enthusiastic, and the result is a carefully planned, coherent series of books. The emphasis is firmly on practice set in a theoretical framework. The books will inform, stimulate and promote discussion, thus adding to the further development of skills and high professional standards. All the authors are practitioners and teachers of social work representing a wide variety of experience.

JO CAMPLING

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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	viii
1 Introductory Parameters	1
2 Determinants of Practice I: Defining Mental Health and Mental Illness	4
What constitutes mental health	4
Criticisms and reservations	6
Influence on practice	8
What constitutes mental illness	10
Approaches to defining mental illness	12
Influence on practice	16
3 Determinants of Practice II: Attitudes to Psychiatry	19
Expectations of psychiatrists	19
False expectations	20
Appropriate expectations	21
Social attitudes to psychiatric practice	24
Anti-psychiatry	25
Anti-institutionalism	25
Civil liberties	26
Influence on practice	26
Disagreements within psychiatry about the origins of psychosis	27
Views and outcomes	28
Choice of view	30
4 Practice Issues: Reflections from Experience	33
The genericism of mental health social work	33
Psychosis or not: the dynamics of deciding	34
Psychosis or not: the outcomes of deciding	37

	The impact on dynamics	37
	The consequences of the decision	40
	The implications for teamworking	41
5	Working with the Sufferer	43
	Axiom I: Empathise with the sufferer's reality and the responses it generates	43
	Exploring the sufferer's reality	43
	The functions of empathy	45
	Axiom II: Help the sufferer to keep in touch with reality	48
	Avoiding further confusion	48
	Developing strategies for controlling symptoms	49
	Axiom III: Relate to the person, not the symptoms	50
	Axiom IV: Promote the sufferer's skills to manage themselves and their lives	51
	Handling unconscious material	52
	Strengthening conscious processes	53
	Implementing skills programmes	55
	Expectation levels	56
	The social work skills	57
6	Working for the Sufferer I: The Team	59
	Axiom I: See the sufferer stays alive	59
	Self-determination: issues of ethics	59
	Protecting life: the practicalities	62
	The quality of life	65
	Axiom II: Contribute to the diagnosis and treatment plan	68
	Contributing to the diagnosis	69
	Knowing what the treatment programme is	71
	Seeing the treatment programme is implemented	74
7	Working for the Sufferer II: The Environment	77
	Axiom I: Secure an appropriate environment	77
	Special factors	78
	Assessing the current environment	79
	Modifying the existing environment	80
	Alternative environments	83

Planning moves to alternative environments	86
Complicating factors in planning moves	88
Axiom II: Secure a routine	91
The importance of routines	91
Routines and mental illness	92
Working for people: conclusion	97
8 The Family: Responding to Needs	99
The pressures on families	99
Axiom I: Shape intervention to the stage of adaptation reached	101
Stages of the process	101
Stages and responses	104
Axiom II: Help individual members of the family with their feelings	106
Responding to feelings	108
Children	109
Axiom III: Help families with their management strategies	110
Reactions to symptomatology	111
Management consistency	112
Helping families to live their own lives	114
Axiom IV: Help resolve maladaptive patterns	117
Patterns of response	118
Functionality or dysfunctionality of patterns	120
Addressing dysfunctional elements	121
Conclusion	127
<i>Bibliography</i>	129
<i>Index</i>	135

Preface

This book, like many others, is a synthesis, emerging from my training and practice as a psychiatric social worker, my involvement with voluntary organisations (mainly MIND) and my teaching of social work theory and mental health to social work students over the years, together with all the associated reading. In addition to other authors, then, I am indebted to my mentors, to my colleagues from a wide variety of professional and academic backgrounds, to fellow voluntary workers, to my students, their practice teachers and agencies, but, above all, to my former clients and their families. I hope they feel that, in the end, they managed to teach me something.

DEREK TILBURY