Background Mental Health in Mauritius

G.R.N.W Asylum- 1940/50s
No professional psychiatric nursing care
Patients segregated in closed asylum
Cared by attendants
Lunacy Act- 1908
Mental Health Act- 1998
Certified patients
Criminal Mental Patients- CMP
Year 2000 onwards

• 50 hectares, 850 beds, 27 acute/chronic wards/units
• Institutionalisation/stigma and discrimination leading to human rights violation
• Regionalisation/general hospital/Out patient care
• Training of specialised psychiatric nurses-2004
• About 80 nurses- diploma in mental health nursing
• Psychiatric establishment for nurses- CN/WM/NS
• Psychiatrists- 15, Social workers- 4/5, Psychologists-4
• More than 40% of admissions- Alcoholism
• 30/40%- Psychotic conditions, 10/15%- Substance Abuse
• Depression/suicides increasing alarmingly
This big institution is sick

What is going so wrong, every one is willing to know

Now several employees are coming up to denounce malpractices and a laisser faire

A place which is full of violence

A patient aggessed last week

Alleged sexual assaults on adolescents at BSH

Another patient commits suicide at AGJ Hospital

‘Unfortunately more patients will lose their lives’ declared the President of the MNA

Patient with suicidal tendencies have not received appropriate care

The Ministry of Health never take our suggestion on board

The MNA urged the Ministry for a one to one nurse: patient ratio for suicidal care
Sexual assault

The MNA states:

Unfortunately this is not an isolated case

We warned the Ministry of Health of such risks several times

It is beyond the control of the nurse

One nurse during night and one during the day shift is unsafe staffing
The situation at BS Hospital is explosive

Nurses are on the hot seat

4 adolescents have escaped from Brown Sequard

The MNA has informed authorities about serious shortcomings several times

The Ministry of Health has paid a deaf ear

The MNA warns the Ministry ‘stop taking Nurses as scapegoats
After Brown Sugar and Subutex, methadone is becoming a major substance of abuse and illicit trafficking.

Nurses feel unsecured and frustrated.
Less than one minute per patient.
The Ministry has no established protocol for methadone distribution.

The GS declared ‘There is no protocol for methadone distribution’.
The MNA has been constantly warning the Ministry of Health.
Top Management of the Ministry pays a deaf ear.
The Ministry of Health prefers piece meal solutions.
Methadone trafficking will continue.
At Brown Sequard Psychiatric Hospital

The protocol on Universal Precautions not respected

Mental Health Day
Rehabilitation of psychiatric Patients

The GS states ‘the Ministry of Health has gone completely off track
The G S of the MNA declared ‘Intravenous Drug Users and other addicts have no adequate follow up and psychological support’
More people would be arrested
We fail to understand why the
Ministry of Health is not reviewing
its policy

Methadone Distribution Centers
The MNA insist for an
Inquiry Committee
A HCAs threatened by a drug
addict
Methadone distribution policies
should be reviewed
One Nurse cannot care for 300
drug addicts within 3 hours
The Diploma in Psychiatry course postponed for no valid reason.

The MNA has deplored the extreme shortage of psychiatric nurses several times.

The Ministry of health is not serious about it engagement.
HIV/ AIDS
The psychological aspect of care is neglected

ALCOHOLISM
Emerging as a major problem in Mauritius

PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE
The MNA claims for an urgent service

CUSTOMER CARE
Extremely important
The MNA exposes the:

Inadequacies of Medical Social Workers (MSWs)

MSWs should attend patients and not only their case sheet

Psychiatric patients require much more psycho social support than other types of patients

MSWs not attending children who have been abandoned in BSH

The MNA deplores the inaction of the Ministry of Health
Children who have been neglected at BS psychiatric hospital

The psychiatric hospital has become the permanent residence of some children.

According to the MNA: ‘We are all passively witnessing at a disaster as regards to these children’

The Ombudsperson for children states: The BS hospital should not be used as a respite centre for children.

A Ministerial Committee set up to find solutions.

When Nurses become surrogate mothers
Time for reflection

How are we treating people?
Ultimatum au ministère de la santé pour redresser la situation.

Le grand retour de l'Horoscope.
Conclusion

• Can we be proud of the care people with psychiatric problems are receiving
• Is this all we can do for them and for society
• Is this Mental Health care than we can offer in 2013
• People with mental illness are human beings after all
• They deserve better

Nurses can do much more

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