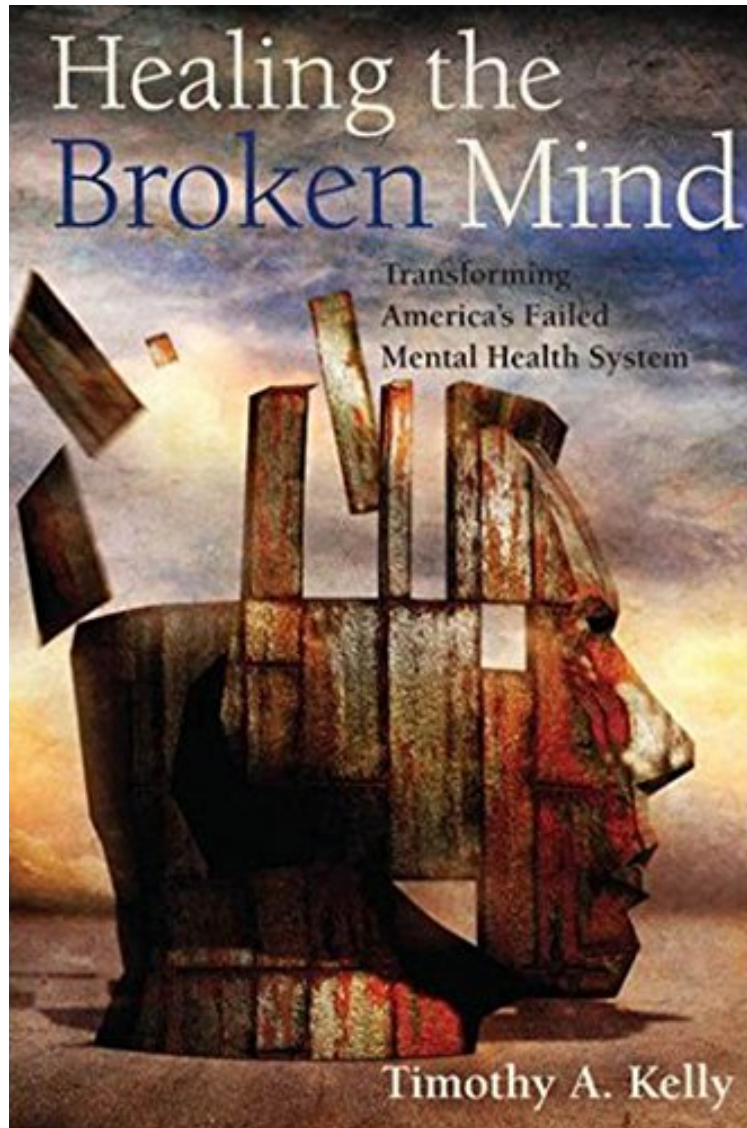


(Read free) Healing the Broken Mind: Transforming America's Failed Mental Health System

Healing the Broken Mind: Transforming America's Failed Mental Health System

Timothy A. Kelly

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Timothy A. Kelly : Healing the Broken Mind: Transforming America's Failed Mental Health System before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Healing the Broken Mind: Transforming America's Failed Mental Health System:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FINALLY, A Sound Plan for Fixing The Broken System By Thomas H. Pyle Everyone who encounters the public mental health system knows it. The President's New Freedom

Commission (2002), which assessed the public mental health system, declared it. America's mental health delivery system is in shambles and needs dramatic reform. Of course this begs the question: how to reform it? The answer, unfortunately, has not been easy to find. Many in the field are good at diagnosing the system's many problems. Few, however, have been good at prescribing a solution. Only work of David Mechanic and the fine book of Richard Frank and Sherry Glied (*Better But Not Yet Well*) come to mind. And then I found Tim Kelly's 2009 book, *Healing The Broken Mind*. A psychologist and formerly the commissioner of Virginia's Department of Mental Health, and currently Director of Deprea Center Public Policy Institute at the Fuller Theological Seminary, Kelly offers us a refreshingly simple, succinct (under 200 pages!), and sensible prescription. Transforming the system requires attention to five critical considerations: 1. Results-oriented 2. Innovative (not monopolistic) 3. Adequately funded 4. Consumer-driven 5. Committed to change (to overcome status quo) In other words, mental health systems must be results oriented, derived from evidence-based outcomes measurement. They must also be open to competition, since the current monopolistic approach of state governments stifles service delivery. Of course they must be adequately funded, although not only by means of increased funding, but by better use of current funding. (This is especially important in Medicaid-funded mental health, which the Kaiser Commission estimates wastes at least 20% of all expenditures.) Mental health services must also be consumer-driven, meaning engaging and satisfying the subjects of treatment and rehabilitation, namely those with the psychiatric disabilities who for too long have been marginalized by the imperially oriented medical-model system. Finally, they must be committed to change to overcome the stultifying inertia of the status quo. If we can implement improvements together in these five areas, Kelly is confident that the system can experience dramatic transformation. Kelly's blueprint is a very important contribution to the field of health services leadership. It is pithy enough to read quickly. It is clear enough to digest easily. It belongs on the bookshelf--and in the forefront of thinking--of all mental health policy makers and advocates. It deserves immediate implementation so to transform once and for all our mental health care system, now considered a disgrace to one that shines with distinction. Our afflicted brothers and sisters, and their families, deserve no less.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Healing the Broken Mind* By Dave Lushbaugh Dr. Kelly's book is written in understandable, knowledgeable, caring, revealing and straightforward terms. It appears this comes from his education, broad real life experience, heart, mind and spirit. The book includes the latest statistics and references. In his book Dr. Kelly acknowledges, that while Virginia's MH Commissioner, his initial lack of attention to - and then ultimately - realization and inclusion of an issue critical to mental health care improvement - real seats at the table for Consumers and Family Members. The book focuses on use of outcome data and evidence-based practices to ensure quality of care. The book makes clear, in detail, system deficiencies and how mental health care can be significantly improved - with our support. Dave Lushbaugh, Mental Health Family Member and Advocate

Few afflictions are as frightening or as heartbreaking as mental illness. It may be a topic that many would prefer to sweep under the rug, but it is a fact of life that we as a society can and must face. We have come a long way over the past few decades in our understanding of mental illness and its potential treatments. Yet, tragically, many across the country who struggle with serious mental illness are unable to find effective, quality medical treatment. As a federal commission on mental health concluded, the system of care is in shambles. But why? And how do we fix it? Timothy A. Kelly, former Commissioner of Virginia's Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Substance Abuse, brings his three decades of experience as mental health commissioner, psychology professor, and clinician to bear in confronting this crisis in America's mental health care system. In clear and accessible terms, he exposes the weaknesses in the current system, examining how and why one of the world's richest and most advanced countries has allowed its most vulnerable citizens to be victimized by the very system designed to help them. Armed with the latest statistics, a lifetime of experience, and heartrending life stories, Kelly argues that the patchwork of care traditionally employed to treat mental illness is simply not up to the task, and that what we need is profound, fundamental, and system-wide change. He then goes on to provide an easy-to-follow road map for achieving lasting transformation, centered on five recommendations for creating a truly effective mental health system of care that enables patients to achieve a lasting recovery. Mental illness is not going to just go away, but Kelly prescribes a comprehensive plan to make treatment accessible and effective so that those who suffer can rejoin their families and their communities. He shows how a transformed system of community-based care allows those with serious mental illness to finally be able to go home.

"*Healing the Broken Mind* is based on Kelly's research as well as his personal experience as Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Mental Health. It provides significant insights into the persistent problems of mental health services and identifies an excellent set of solutions that will ameliorate these problems. An important read for the general public, consumers, and policy makers." -Len Bickman, *Psychiatry and Public Policy*, Vanderbilt University "Kelly understands the mental health system with all its warts. His approach to repairing its ills is as radical as some of the major reformers of mental health treatment in history. Don't be misled by Kelly's insistence on data to support mental health treatment. This book is not dull. It is a refreshing, creative, consumer-friendly

manifesto for the United States to treat its people who have serious mental illness with dignity."-Everett L. Worthington, Jr., Virginia Commonwealth University"An excellent look at mental health policy and services. Kelly tells us where we are and, more importantly, where we need to be to provide quality mental health services to both served and under served populations."-Robert J. Resnick, Former President, American Psychological Association"A thoughtful introduction to a subject that's often shunted aside in the health care reform debate. "-Miller-McCune

About the Author Timothy A. Kelly is Director of TAK Consult and Research Associate Professor of Psychology at the Fuller Graduate School of Psychology in Pasadena, California. He is the former Commissioner of Virginia's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services, and has served on the Boards of Directors for both the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and the National Research Institute.