

Folks,

Sentinel # 132 was titled "a quick note from us."

The book COMMITTED: The Battle over Involuntary Psychiatric Care [Johns Hopkins University Press], by Dinah Miller and Annette Hanson, a lively read, has some reflections on Montgomery County, its agencies and some of its people, which we would like to note.

Of this country's 3144 counties, the book says Montgomery County is the tenth richest with well-regarded schools and other government agencies. Within the County's Department of Human Services is a Crisis Center, whose three part-time psychiatrists and 39 other staff provide 24-hour walk-in, telephone service, six crisis beds, and a mobile unit that makes house calls. Services are provided at no costs and are available in English, Spanish, French, and Vietnamese. [For other languages, the County uses the Language Line.]

This type of crisis service is relatively rare across the country. Further, only three of Maryland's 24 counties in Maryland have this resource for mental health crises. The book goes on to say that Montgomery County, Maryland, is an exceptional place with exceptional people and exceptional services.

Speaking of the Language Line, it is available at [LanguageLine.com](http://LanguageLine.com). Provides phone translation and video translation in real time, 24 x 7. They keep adding languages they can handle. Now up to 240.

One of the people described by Drs. Miller and Hanson is Montgomery County policeman Scott A. Davis. Davis, who works well with mental health crises in the County is seen as "a gem," who gets a lot of credit for making the management of the County's most disturbed mentally ill human.

Another described in the book is one of the most influential psychiatrists of our time, Fuller Torrey. Fuller, as we know, created the Stanley Foundation, was key in the formation of NAMI, and developed the Treatment Advocacy Center [TAC]. It would be difficult to identify an organization more supportive of involuntary commitment than TAC.

In Tuesday's NY Times:

1] From the lakphy desk, lack of exercise for ten days in those who were exercising vigorously will experience a drop off in the blood flow to the brain. In noting this, we need to be careful not to say that will mean deceased cognitive functioning. Cognitive functioning remained the same.

2] Preventure [spelled correctly], an initiative to identify children early who are vulnerable to becoming addicted to alcohol or other substances, has identified four characteristics their believe make kids vulnerable:

- a] sensation-seeking
- b] impulsiveness
- c] anxiety sensitivity
- d] hopelessness

In this month's J of AAC&AP: "Intravenous immunoglobulin is not an effective treatment for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infection obsessive-compulsive disorder." Actually, that headline is misleading. Placebo intravenous infusion did great. You just don't need to include immunoglobulin in the IV.

Roger