

[Topics—WHO Mental health Action Plan 2013-2020]

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From: **Kelly ODonnell** <mcaresources@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 30, 2013 at 2:21 PM

Subject: Global Integration update--good news about the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020

To: Member Care Associates <mcaresources@gmail.com>

Dear colleagues in the integration fields (MH-theology),

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Warm greetings to you from Geneva,

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I wanted to let you know some very significant news that relates to our MH training/research programs and work in mental health. The *Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020* was just passed here in Geneva at the WHO World Health Assembly (Friday, 24 May 2013). We all have good reason to celebrate!

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Please see pages 7-8 of the attached Action Plan for an overview--near-final version:

****overarching Vision and Goal (e.g., "a world in which MH is valued and promoted, mental disorders are prevented, and persons affected by these disorders are able..."**

****four Objectives (e.g., provide comprehensive, integrative, and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings)**

****six Cross-cutting Principles (e.g., human rights, evidence-based practice, life-course approach).**

Why is this relevant for us? I can think of at least three reasons:

1. This 25 page document is the current and arguably best international plan regarding how to meet the enormous mental health needs of the world. It prioritizes the needs of low resource countries and vulnerable populations as well as calls upon all countries to strengthen their mental health policies, programs, and practices.

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2. Civil society including academic institutions are seen as key players in the Action Plan (e.g., providing training and research) .

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3. The Action Plan is a useful grid to relate what we are doing in the integration fields with what is going on globally in mental health (e.g., how does what we are doing relate to the 450 million people worldwide estimated to have some type of mental, neurological, and substance use condition, with about 75% of these going untreated in low/mid-income countries.)

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3. The Action Plan is a document to read and review and include in many psychology and MH courses and conferences, including courses in history/systems, cross-cultural/diversity, clinical-counseling-community psychology, etc. I shared about it recently at graduate schools of Psychology and at the CAPS Conference in Portland.

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In short, the Action Plan is a tangible way to inform how we can connect and contribute across disciplines, sectors, and cultures. I see it as a key tool to help us sensitively and relevantly integrate our lives globally--and to take "integration" globally. It points us clearly in the direction of "mental health **as** mission."

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Many thanks to the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the many organisations and colleagues in health and mental health who have helped to bring mental health into the world community's health and development agendas.

Please do take the time to review the Action Plan and to share this update with others.

All the best,

Kelly O'Donnell