A Moral Endeavour in a Demoralizing Context
Psychiatric Inpatient Care from the Perspective of Professional Caregivers
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Are you solving problems or meeting needs?
A staff oriented, problem-solving approach to psychiatric inpatient care differs from a patient-oriented approach focused on meeting the individual needs of patients. Based on staff members' rea-
ing in focus group interviews, we suggest that a problem-solving approach might entail a focus on staff members' safety, the patient's behaviour rather than matters adhering to ward routine, and working to discipline the patient to avoid unwanted behaviour. In contrast, adopting a needs-oriented approach might focus on patient safety, taking actions that empower the patient, ad-
ising to the situation at hand, and trying to understand what the patient's experience. Choice of approach affects both what actions are taken and the quality of these actions.

Does your workplace support relationship-oriented care?
Circumstances in the psychiatric inpatient environment affect nurses' ability to work through relationships. Skated values and nursing leadership support being moral and meeting patients with respect, having enough time supports being present and connecting with patients, and working as a part of a competent team with critical daily discussions and diversity supports being condi-
tional and building trust.

Are you taking responsibility for your practice?
It is important that nurses in psychiatric inpatient care take personal responsibility for their professional practice. Interventions with skilled, relationship-oriented nurses and assistant nurses suggest that good nursing practice depends on nurses taking personal responsibility for the patient as a person and for their actions towards that person. If unable to improve poor circumstances, nurses might be forced to promote their own survival by refuting or redefining their responsibility. Nurses' choosing to leave psychiatric inpatient care might be understood as them refuting their re-
ponsibility due to not being able to uphold good nursing practice. Refusing responsibility for one's actions might also occur by accepting the incapable of the physician or the team and thus placing responsibility on others. Refusing responsibility might be done by resigning in the face of an overwhelming work load and shift focus from the individual patient towards practical tasks.

Key references

Bonaquist, Z. (2010). Ausdrucklich och det moderata sanalrätten [Modernity and the Ho-


Take home messages!