



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

[www.ethics2010.org](http://www.ethics2010.org)



### Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at [ethics@providence.org](mailto:ethics@providence.org) with any questions.

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Proposed title of paper: A Greek Chorus for the Marginally Mentally Ill

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Kathryn Montgomery described a case where the medical community bore witness like a 'Greek chorus' to the illness of a homeless person. In a similar fashion the medical community in the United States is now becoming the Greek chorus for the marginally mentally ill. In the past fifty years society has appropriately re-examined the excessively severe restrictions of liberties of those with behavioral health problems. However society may have moved too far in 'releasing the inmates.' Sadly, some persons will not return to a level of mental health such that no oversight is needed. We, as health care providers must guard against an overly optimistic approach to our patients. There is great need for a structured environment in which those individuals with behavioral health issues can flourish but also where there is recognition of the need for some limits. We will present a case where misunderstanding of the abilities of a marginally mentally ill individual led to inappropriate decisions and how the medical team anguished over best care of the patient whose life was at stake. A more collaborative approach to the health care of those with behavioral health problems will be presented.

#### Goals

1. Describe the recent care of the mentally ill in the United States
2. Discuss the tension between autonomy and beneficence in the care of the mentally ill
3. Suggest some strategies for caring for the mentally ill

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

no plans at this time

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes     No