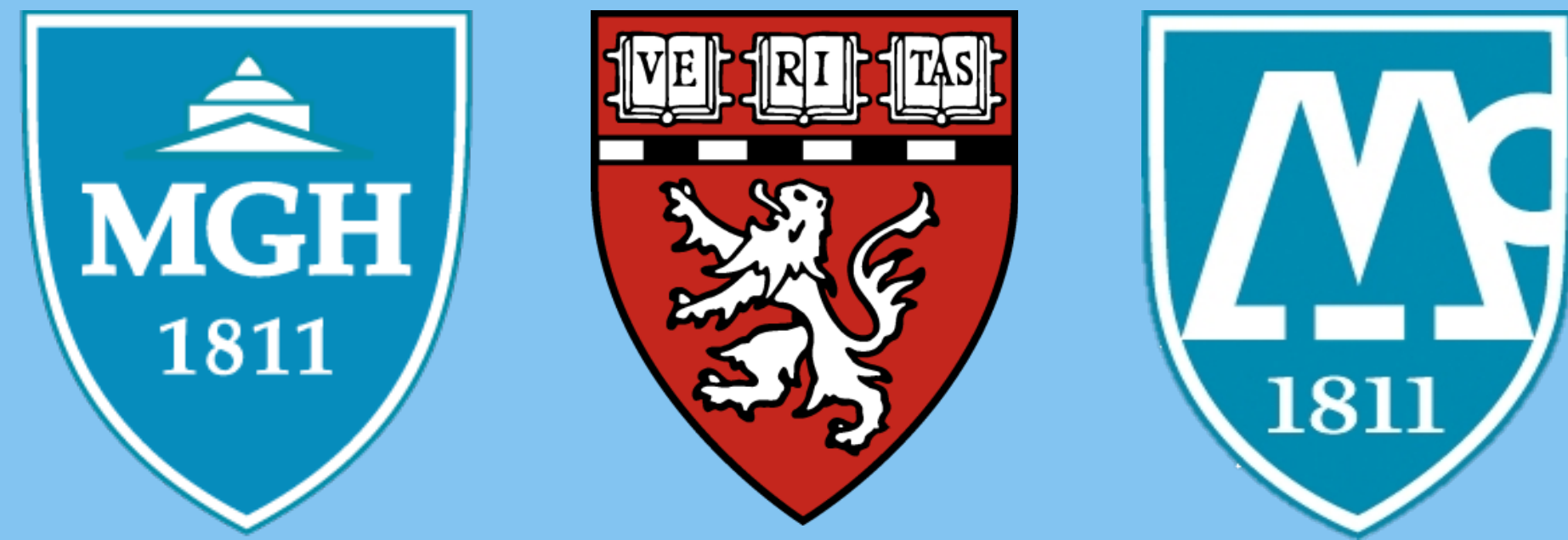


Teaching Community Psychiatry in an Era of a Rapidly Changing 'Mass/Cass'



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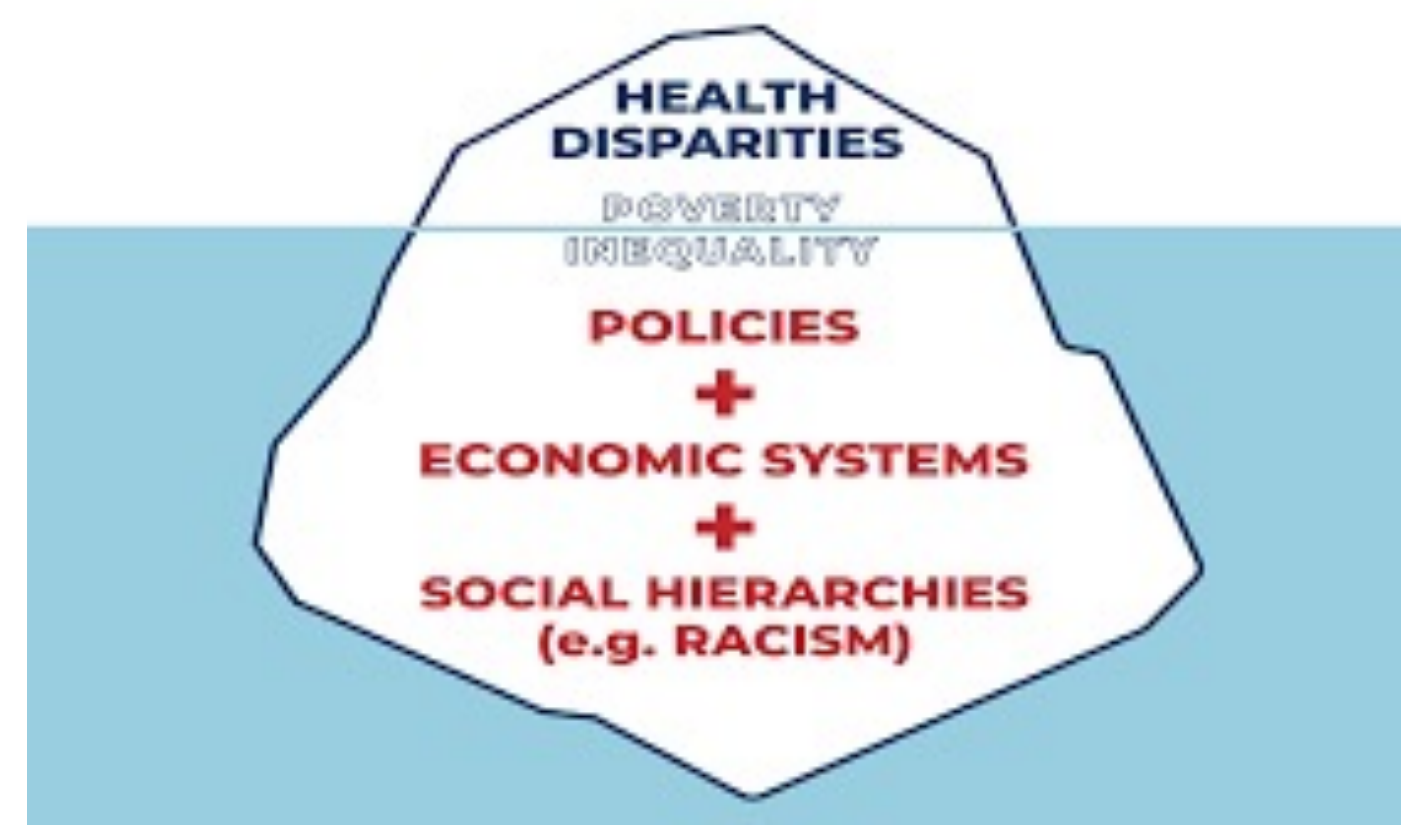
1. Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Psychiatry 2. McLean Hospital Department of Psychiatry 3. Massachusetts Department of Mental Health 4. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital



Introduction: the Rotation

MGH/McLean's public and community psychiatry rotation for second-year residents is a collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and focuses on the care of patients facing serious mental illness, substance use disorders and homelessness. But even more centrally, it aims to impart an understanding of some core principles integral to the care of vulnerable populations, which include:

- Recovery model
- Systems-based practice
- Structural competency



Key rotation components include:

- DMH-contracted outpatient clinic
- Street outreach with DMH and Boston Healthcare for the Homeless teams
- Addiction/MI supervision
- Consultation for the care of homeless residents

Teaching occurs via faculty- and chief resident/peer-led didactics, writing assignments, assigned reading and weekly rounds.

Key Issues at Mass/Cass

LOCAL
Wu vows to remove Mass. and Cass encampments by winter, faces criticism on expanded housing services

LOCAL
'You feel trapped': One unhoused man shares why shelters don't always feel safe for individuals struggling with homelessness
"I realized if I stayed in the shelter any longer, it was going to kill me."

LOCAL
Transitional housing is key to solving the crisis at Mass. and Cass
Shattuck hospital would provide temporary housing for people at Mass. and Cass under state plan

STATE
The opioid and homelessness crisis at Mass. and Cass: Whose problem is it?
Katherine Sabido Boston University Statehouse Program
Published 4:03 a.m. ET Jan. 2, 2022

EDITORIAL
A safe solution is needed for the Mass & Cass colony
Melvin B. Miller
December 30th, 2021

LOCAL NEWS
Mass. and Cass woes cited in push for safe injection sites
By Chris Litsinski, State House News Service
September 29, 2021

LOCAL NEWS
Activists push to leave tents up in Mass and Cass

'We have to do something': Special courts launched to hear cases for those arrested near Mass. and Cass
By Tonya Hume Globe Staff, Updated November 1, 2021, 9:57 p.m.

A look inside the jail space that could become a Mass. and Cass unit
By Shirley Leung Globe Columnist, Updated October 23, 2021, 5:55 p.m.

OPINION
We can't arrest our way out of Mass. and Cass
Drug addiction and homelessness should be addressed as public health issues, not crimes.
By Carol Rose Updated September 28, 2021, 3:08 p.m.

MASS. AND CASS
Boston Opens Special Court for Arrests at Mass. and Cass Homeless Camp
The makeshift court is part of Mayor Kim Janey's executive order to remove tents from city streets, after she declared addiction and homelessness a public health emergency last month.
Published November 2, 2021 • Updated on November 2, 2021 at 4:05 p.m.

Handwritten notes on maps: "WOODS-MULL HOMELESS SHELTER (WOMEN)", "SOUTHAMPT STREET SHELTER", "ATHS AHOPE NEEDLE EXCHANGE HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS BOSTON", "HARVET METHADONE CLINIC", "VAC METHADONE CLINIC", "E UNIVERSAL MURCH VACU LO", "to South End & Back Bay I-93 to points north & south Panhandling cross roads to Roxbury & Fenway Park".

Results: Learning via Mass/Cass



Teaching strategies:

- Residents participate in direct street outreach at Mass/Cass with experienced outreach teams
- Supervision with providers familiar with clinical and policy issues pertinent to Mass/Cass
- Readings from local news, including a number cited at left, related to the history of Mass/Cass and ongoing public debate
- Reflection on readings with inter-professional and inter-agency group with representatives from BHCHP, DMH, and MGH

Result:

Residents are exposed to real-world, ongoing, local issues, have observed key themes surfaced by Mass/Cass, including harm reduction, mass incarceration, and stigma, have engaged with the recovery lens and systems-based practice through discussion with providers working at Mass/Cass, and public debate about possible interventions.

Conclusions and Next Steps:

- Local issues, such as the Mass/Cass encampment, are unique educational opportunities for trainees learning public and community psychiatry. A flexible community psychiatry curriculum that incorporates such threads may enrich the educational experience of learners, which may improve their ability to provide appropriate care to vulnerable patients and populations.
- Feedback from DMH staff and residents could improve ongoing learning and acquisition of important knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Works Cited:

<https://www.nccca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Structural-Competency-Spurgeon-Lieu.pdf>

Rios, S. (2021, October 19). Janey unveils plan to remove tents from Mass. and Cass Area. WBUR News. Retrieved February 25, 2022, from <https://www.wbur.org/news/2021/10/19/boston-kim-janey-mass-and-cass-plan>

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/SAMHSA-s-Working-Definition-of-Recovery/PEP12-RECDEF>
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/contact/hpd-outreach.page>

Introduction: 'Mass/Cass'

- Tent encampment characterized as "the epicenter of the region's opioid addiction crisis" near the intersection of Melnea Cass Blvd and Massachusetts Ave in Boston
- 300+ sleeping nightly at peak
- Located adjacent to heavily concentrated substance use, homelessness and medical services, which are generally not well dispersed in Boston
- Grew in size after closure of Long Island Bridge in 2014
- Significant concerns around health of population, drug trade/sale/use, violence, vandalism, crime, and exploitation
- Political pressure led city government to clear with force via raids in 2019 to no sustained effect. New effort in 2021 (described at right)

