

FPSY 6511
Treatment of Forensic Populations

Week 10 Case Studies
Mentally Ill Offenders

Case of Julie

Julie is a 42-year-old female who was released from prison after serving 12 years for drug-related offenses. She has been under the care of a mental health professional in some capacity since the age of 12. Eight years ago she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and has had problems maintaining compliance with her medication regimen. When she has been “off her meds,” she is prone to acts of self-harm and self-medicates with illicit substances. Part of her discharge treatment plan from prison involves seeing a mental health professional who can help to address her psychological health needs.

Case of Stan

Stan is a 25-year-old male who has been diagnosed recently with paranoid schizophrenia. He came to the attention of local authorities after he was arrested for destroying government property. Specifically, he threw bricks at a parked police car because he believed the car was recording his behavior and “keeping track of his thoughts.” The court has agreed to keep Stan in his community and has sentenced him to a period of probation provided he is under the care of a mental health professional.

Case of Juan

Juan is a 47-year-old male who is serving the 12th year of a 22-year sentence for armed robbery and manslaughter. During the most recent parole board meeting with Juan, the commissioners advised him to seek mental health treatment for a long history of what Juan describes as “depression.” Juan reported that his depression has caused him to get into trouble in prison and he therefore needs help. The parole commission advised Juan that they will see him in 18 months to determine if he has sought appropriate care and is ready for release.