



'Diversity Dilemmas' Statements

(April 2010)

- You hear a racist comment made between two colleagues in passing and decide to report this directly to your line manager. Do you agree or disagree with this action?
- During an assessment of a refugee you encourage her to exaggerate her needs as you feel that she is vulnerable but she does not quite meet the criteria to receive a service. Do you agree or disagree with this action?
- A colleague in your team asks you to undertake some work with a gay, young man. You agree after he explains that he is very religious and 'cannot deal with homosexuality on moral grounds'. Do you agree or disagree with your colleague?
- A young Asian woman who has a history of 'manic episodes' and has been a devout Muslim, she starts to dress in westernised clothing and acting provocatively towards young men. Her family say that she needs to have treatment in hospital as 'she does not think that she is mentally ill'. The social worker disagrees with the family because she feels that this is 'normal behaviour for a young Asian person taking on Western values'. Do you agree or disagree with the family?
- A Jewish patient on the ward who is going through a 'psychotic episode' asks for bacon and is given it. The family are angry about this and complain to ward staff who dismiss the family's objections as 'the patient has a right to eat what he wants'. Do you agree or disagree with the family?
- A young West African woman who has experienced sexual abuse in the past and is increasingly self-harming has recently been referred to mental health services. Her family are currently taking her to a 'spiritual healer' who is exorcising 'her demons' as she is 'evil' and 'possessed'. The young woman believes that the exorcisms are helping her so the Mental Health Team do not

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challenge the family as they are engaging in 'culturally appropriate' therapeutic actions. Do you agree or disagree with the mental health teams decision?

- During a Child Protection meeting the Chairperson states that in her view a person with a diagnosis of 'schizophrenia' is 'likely to be a poor parent'. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- A young Rastafarian man attending a mental health resource centre shows you a small piece of cannabis that he has on him but he says that he will not smoke it on the premises, so you let him keep it. Do you agree or disagree with this action?
- You arrange for the services of an interpreter for a young female Bangladeshi patient being voluntarily admitted to psychiatric hospital but when he arrives the parents object because the interpreter knows the family. It is late on a Friday afternoon and it would be difficult to get a replacement so you insist on using the interpreter. Do you agree or disagree with this action?