“Psychiatric Bed Availability in California: Is it a Problem, and If So, What Do We Do About It?”

Moderated by Senator Scott Wiener
California Senate District 11 – San Francisco

The availability of psychiatric hospital beds has been declining steadily in the United States. While the number of psychiatric beds per 100,000 population approaches 80 in Western Europe, it is less than 20 in the US and as low as 12 in some parts of California. While the association is not necessarily causal, as psychiatric bed supply has declined, rates of completed suicides, homelessness, and incarceration of the mentally ill in county jails have increased. In short, the deinstitutionalization pendulum may have swung too far.

This UC Center Panel will explore the problem of California’s psychiatric bed shortage from three perspectives. First, Dr. Thomas Strouse, Medical Director of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, will introduce the problem from the perspective of an administrator at one of Southern California’s largest academic psychiatric facilities. Then Dr. Aimee Moulin, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at UC Davis, will present recent data on the impact of psychiatric illness and the psychiatric hospital bed shortage on non-psychiatric emergency departments in the state. Finally, Dr. Kenneth Wells, Medical Director of the UCLA Semel Institute and Co-Director of the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence at UCLA, will explore how communities can muster resources and promote resilience to diminish the impact of insufficient psychiatric inpatient services.

Dr. Thomas Strouse, UCLA
Dr. Thomas Strouse is Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and the inaugural holder of the Maddie Katz Chair in Palliative Care Research and Education. He is also the Medical Director of the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA and Vice-Chair for Clinical Affairs in the David Geffen UCLA School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Aimee Moulin, UC Davis
Dr. Aimee Moulin is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at UC Davis, where she also serves as the Assistant Residency Program Director as well as the Coordinator of Intern Rotations. She received her M.D. from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Kenneth Wells, UCLA
Dr. Kenneth Wells is the Director of the Semel Institute Center for Health Services and Society and Co-Director of the California Behavioral Health Center of Excellence and Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at UCLA.

The views and opinions expressed during this lecture are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent the views of UCCS.

To register go to: uccs.ucdavis.edu/events
RSVP by May 8th!