



**Ethical Courage:
Speaking out against admitting
children to an adult psychiatric ward**

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candidate)
Speaking on behalf of the nurses of
1 South

**Back Ground
History**



- > Child psychiatrist to work at the hospital and two bed unit built on pediatric floor.
- > Many problems ; decision between management and union to move the CYMH patients to the adult psychiatric unit.
- > Many problems on adult unit ; nurses engaged with union and community partners to address issue of caring for CYMH in-patients. Union and management agree to meet with Arbitrator Brian Foley.
- > Arbitrator issued the Foley Consent Order in January of 2002. This order addressed such things as : there were not to be more than 3 children/adolescents at any one time, no children under the age of 6, ongoing staff education, close observation and documentation of children/adolescent patients, a 24hr security guard and the employer was to provide evidence of its ongoing commitment to creating a separate psychiatric unit for children/adolescents.
- > In 2010 with many Professional Responsibility Forms (PRF) in hand nurses called for our union to take action (attempts to build programs within an existing adult system failed; staffing levels often meant children spent periods as long as 1-2 weeks in the locked Special Care Unit; allegations by patients of unsafe incidents; and plans and talk of a separate ward occurred but nothing materialized).

The Nurses

Start the Research Process



- 1) Check statistics for CYMH in B.C.
- 2) Research what 'best practice' is for this population.
- 3) Find out what other places are doing.
- 4) Use the Canadian Nurses Association, Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses, as a starting framework.
- 5) Search for relevant articles.

KEY FACTS

• One in seven or an estimated 140,000 children and youth in B.C. suffer from mental illness (ages 0 to 18).

o Prior to implementation of B.C.'s mental health plan, only 11,000 children and youth received mental health support from the ministry in 2004/5.

o In 2006/07, MCFD served 19,952 children and youth through community-based CYMH (children and youth mental health) services.

*** In 2006 in B.C. 15 children and youth under age 19 died by suicide.

**Research use in children’s
mental health policy in Canada:
Maintaining vigilance amid
ambiguity**

Charlotte Waddell, John N. Lavis, Julia Abelson,
Jonathan Lomas, Cody A. Shepherd, Twylla Bird-
Gayson, Mita Giacomini and David R. Offord.

Social Science & Medicine 61 (2005) 1649-1657

** Leading researchers from UBC & McMaster University

**Doing Better With “Bad Kids” :
Explaining The Policy Research
Gap With Conduct Disorder in
Canada**

Charlotte Waddell, Jonathan Lomas, Dan
Offord and Mita Giacomini.

Journal of Community Mental Health, 2001, 20 (2), 59-76

Canadian Nurses Association

**Code of Ethics for
Registered Nurses**


**Social
Justice
Perspective**



**Development of a Social Justice Gauge and Its Use
to Review the Canadian Nurses Association's Code
of Ethics for Registered Nurses**

*Colleen M. Davison, BEd, MPH; Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN;
June Webber, PhD, RN; Sheila Robinson, PhD, RN*

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**Toward a Critical Theoretical
Interpretation of Social Justice
Discourses in Nursing**

Sheryl Reimer Kirkham, PhD, RN; Annette J. Browne, PhD, RN

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**Human
Rights
Perspective**



Where We
Are Now