CORRECTIONAL PSYCHIATRY
PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND STRATEGIES

Volume II

Edited by
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and
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Introduction

In 2007 we presented a book on correctional psychiatry, which, at the time, closed a gap in the market of books dealing with medical and behavioral care issues in America’s jails and prisons. The book was a success in terms of sales, and, we hope, in terms of greater awareness in the field of the unique challenges associated with our work in corrections. Our book is no longer the only one of its kind, but we continue to believe that it offers a uniquely focused approach to the topic of correctional psychiatry.

Yet, as soon as we saw the book in print, we were also aware that it was not complete. Large topic areas—such as institutions designed for populations other than adult males, the specific needs of minorities, etc.—still went unaddressed. Thus, the thought of a second volume was born.

Certain topic areas clearly needed to be included to complement the first volume. A more extensive discussion of psychotherapies, collaboration with other disciplines, the challenge of treating aggressive behaviors, and cultural aspects was obviously needed. But we also saw utility in a number of topics that affect psychiatrists who work in jail or prison more indirectly. This explains our decision to include chapters on specialty courts, gangs, specialized facilities, and the growing role of end-of-life care in prisons in this Volume II. We also found it desirable to include a more in-depth discussion of psychopathy—its phenomenology and its treatment—as well as a number of chapters on the boundaries between the institution and the outside world. These issues are captured in the chapters on the impact of parents’ incarceration on children, on probation and parole, and on transition programs. We address some practical concerns in our contributions on a model specialty unit, on legal issues, and on career choices in corrections. Finally, we were pleased and honored that a corrections officer, Sgt. Kandi Payne-Davis, agreed to write a brief closing chapter summarizing “the view from the other side.”

The reader may notice occasional repetitiveness. For instance, the numbers of incarcerated individuals are mentioned in a number of chapters, and the differences between parole, probation, and so on, are outlined more than once. As editors, we decided to let these repetitions stand because few people are likely to read this book cover to cover at a single point in time. A brief summary of certain material, if essential to the subject matter under discussion, is best placed in close vicinity to that subject matter, even if it also occurs elsewhere.

This volume should be seen as part of the larger effort of trying to submit to the interested public an up-to-date standard work on the practice of psychiatry in correctional institutions. While we do not believe that we have dealt with the subject matter exhaustively, we hope to have compiled a reliable and thorough reference work.

— Ole J. Thienhaus and Melissa Piasecki
December 2012

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