

History in Practice Project

Present: Mapping Emotions and Honouring Feelings

Title: “How do you feel?” by branwen Willow and Cat Omura

Venue: present day psych ward

Cast: staff and patient named Eliza

Staff: (coming over to where Eliza is sitting by herself) “How are you doing with your meds, Eliza?”

Eliza: “Ok I guess. But I really miss my dog, Scamp. I’m so lonely here.”

Staff: “I’m glad to hear you’re doing OK on your meds.” (Leaves)

Keynote Questions:

1. How do you feel about the interaction you’ve just witnessed?
2. What do you think about the two people in this scenario?
3. Do you think the interaction went as well as it could have? Why or why not?
4. Is there a reason the staff might not be addressing all Eliza’s concerns?
5. What barriers, formal or informal might be in place in this setting?
6. What is the disconnection between this patient’s expectations and the care being provided?
7. Can the situation be improved?