

WEEK 14 – IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILD & ADOLESCENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY

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Aha! And now, Dr. Hanson's and your favorite part of all our lectures and podcasts and policy briefs and everything else we do in this class. What are the implications for child and adolescent behavioral health policy? Remschmidt and Bellefleur suggest that international organizations, such as WHO, the World Psychiatric Association, the World Federation of Mental Health, the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Allied Professions, UNESCO and UNICEF can all play a role in helping to push a global agenda for child and adolescent behavioral health.

Each has a role, whether it is raising awareness through public health prevention and promotion initiatives to help establish facilities to provide services, to provide training programs for behavioral health workers, or to advocate and ensure the convention of the rights of the child as followed internationally. We suggest that it is the individuals in these organizations who also play a role in effecting change. As we approach the end of the semester, we would like to think you have learned new and perhaps different ways of thinking about child and adolescent behavioral health. We feel we have learned a lot in developing this course, as well as from our weekly interactions with you and through the course assignments.

On a personal note, Dr. Levin and I would like to thank you for being in this class and for working with us as we try to determine what is and is not effective in affecting policy change in child and adolescent behavioral health.