

Case Vignettes in the Media: Clinical Problems and Social Justice Connections for Clinical MSW Training (page 1 of 5)

Compiled by Professor Monit Cheung, University of Houston, CBI Class, 2016 to 2021

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Y R	#	Identified Client (with media hyperlink)	Demographics (presumably at the time of treatment)	Clinical Problems (written for practice purposes)	Social Justice Connections	Event Year
1 6	1	Andrea Yates	F/42, Caucasian, divorced, 5 deceased children	Postpartum Depression, distorted perception, Paranoia	Lack of societal concern of female-specific mental disorders	2006
	2	Caitlyn Marie Jenner	Transgender/66, 6 children from previous 3 marriages	Anxiety and gender dysphoria	Family's reaction to gender transition (from Bruce Jenner)	2015
	3	Ethan Couch	M/16, Caucasian	Avoidance, deflector, indifferent to others suffering	Underage drinking resulted in the death of four people	2013
	4	Heba Mohamed	F/20, Syrian of Muslim faith	Depressed; fearful and anxious; acculturation stress.	Immigration adjustment issues; lack of services for immigrants	2015
	5	Kirby Taylor	M/67, Born in 1949, African American, Divorcee with one son (deceased).	PTSD with insomnia; Fear of being alone; nightmares, depression	Dealing with son's death and own injury due to fire set on their home by a trusted friend; blamed self for not aware of friend's mental health problem	2016
	6	Oi Ho*	F/60, Asian American, divorced Mother of Park Ho; fictitious name	Depression, insomnia, loss of appetite, anger	Cultural/Language barrier; determined to find and punish the random shooting killer of her son (Park Ho)	2015
	7	Rachel Dolezal	F/38, biologically Caucasian but identifies as African American, divorced with one son and custody of her adopted brother	Socially isolated	Encountering widespread criticism due to racial identity change from Caucasian to African American	2015
	8	Sean Penn	M/55, White, divorced with one son and one daughter.	Anxiety, insomnia, feelings of failure, sadness	Met with drug cartel leader from Mexican for private interview about drug war policies. Paranoid that the Mexican government blamed him for the drug cartel leader's capture	2016
	9	Steven Avery	M/53, Caucasian, single with two daughters and three sons.	Paranoid; fearful of being arrested	Has trust issues due to a criminal sentence for 18 years in prison for a wrongful sexual assault conviction	2015
	10	Tatyana Phillips	F/ 18, African American, single, currently no children after losing her newborn son	Depressed mood; grief and loss	Medical malpractice led to child loss	2015
1 7	11	Amanda Todd	F/15, Caucasian, student	Depressed and anxious	Being bullied by peers for her naked pictures in cyberspace.	2012
	12	Dylann Storm Roof	M/22, Caucasian, single	Obsession with disdain and hatred feelings against African Americans	Mass shooting at a historically black church; dealing with client's history of mental illness and white supremacy	2015
	13	Jenea Ann Mungia	F/ 23 years old, Born 1991, Hispanic, single with one child	Auditory and visual hallucinations	Domestic violence survivor with a history of psychiatric hospitalizations for postpartum psychosis and was recently charged with seriously injuring her 4-year-old child	2015
	14	Philip Seymour Hoffman	M/46, Caucasian, married but separated, father of two daughters and a son	Depression; Fear of being alone; physical conversion	Celebrity's personal struggles with drug addiction and family discord	2014
	15	Patricia (Trish) XX	F/31, Caucasian, an Appalachian, Divorced, mother of two girls	Drug addiction; Depression and Anxiety	Living in poverty, alienated family with criminal record and incarceration. Wants to learn how to stay clean, get children back	2010
	16	Bobbi Kristina Brown	F/23, African American	Substance Abuse Issues after Mother's death	Assuming client still living; Grieving about mother's (Whitney Houston) death. With societal pressure on perfectionism.	2015
	17	Tiffany Klapheke	F/23, military wife, Caucasian, married with 3 daughters, 1 deceased	Mental health disorders	With adverse childhood experience, being charged for child neglect leading to child death; lack of mental health services	2014
	18	Geneva Reed-Veal	F/48, African American, single mother of five daughters	Grief for her daughter's recent death; feelings of guilt, anger, and insomnia	Daughter was wrongfully arrested; suspicious suicide in jail cell	2015
	19	Micah Johnson	M/25, African American, single	Paranoia toward government entities; possible PTSD from military service	Responsible for police shooting led to mass shooting; concerned about oppression against African Americans	2016
1 8	20	Flora Rranxburgaj	F/44, Caucasian (Albanian citizen), married, 2 sons	Depression; immigration adjustment and stress	Deportation of husband who is the primary caregiver and financial support	2017
	21	Danielle Hicks-Best	F/20, African American, single mother with a 4-year-old son	PTSD, Bipolar Disorder with psychotic features, Paranoia, drug abuse, child abuse suicide, ADHD	Raped by several people twice; maltreated by the criminal justice system	2015

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	22	Jade Blouins	F/6, student, petite	Depression, stress, nervousness, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and Asperger syndrome; learning disability in written expression and language/speech fluency	Not received individualized services; lack of access to special education due to ineligibility	2018
	23	Gypsy Rose	F/26, Caucasian, single, mother deceased	Antisocial Personality Disorder	Medically abused by her mother; murdered mother after being medically abused for years	2018
	24	Dominique Bryant	F/17, African American, Foster Child since birth, Adopted once	Depression, lack of self-confidence	Aging out of foster care, adolescent homeless, limited access to resources	2017
	25	Jaycee Lee Dugard	F/37, Caucasian, two adult children	PTSD, child sexual abuse	Abducted and locked up for 18 years since 11 years old; raped and repeatedly beaten during these 18 years	2011
	26	Rosaura Urbina	F/43, Hispanic, married, 2 children; 1 of 2 deceased	PTSD, depression, anxiety	Teenage son was killed in Police involved shooting; lack of early interventions for son with suicidal ideation	2017
	27	Salma Hayek Pinalut	F/51, Hispanic, award-winning actress and film maker; one daughter	PTSD and anxiety	Sexually abused by the film producer more than a decade ago	2017
	28	Larry Nassar	M/54 years old, Middle Eastern, divorced, 3 children	Pedophilia, Panic Disorder and Depression	Lack of intervention regarding pedophilia; Suffered from Pedophilic Disorder since late teens and acted on his urges with hundreds of underage girls	2018
19	29	Osvaldo Samuel Choc-Ruiz	M/15, Guatemalan, UAC entered the US border and was apprehended near Hidalgo, Texas	Depression, Anxiety; suicidal ideation	Immigrated from Guatemala to U.S. and was detained in an unaccompanied minor shelter for six months	2019
	30	Mike Faith	M/40?, veteran of 18 years at the Standing Rock tribal council and now councilman of the tribe	Anxiety, not being understood by others	Advocacy about oil spill from the Dakota Access Pipeline into Lake Oahe, a reservoir on the Missouri River where the Sioux tribe gets their drinking water	2017
	31	Ruben Diaz	M/36, Hispanic	Schizophrenia, autism, criminal history, homicidal ideations	Being sentenced to jail for stabbing a 74-year-old male; Lack of mental health resources	2018
	32	Cyntoia Brown	F/30, African American	PTSD, depression; fetal alcohol syndrome	Ran away from adoptive family, suffering intimate partner violence, sex trafficking; being charged for murdering a person who solicited for sex; serviced 15 years in prison: criminal justice system issue	2018
	33	Teresa Hamilton	F/17, Caucasian, homeless teen	Anxiety; Learning disability	Distant family relationship and lack of awareness and resources for mental health issues	2015
	34	Nery Caal	M/29, from Guatemala, married to Claudia Maquin, had 4 children but one deceased	Anxiety; Depression; PTSD	Living in poverty in Guatemala; while immigrated to US, youngest daughter died in the journey because of lacking care at the border	2018
	35	Kalief Browder	M/20, African American, single, no children	Depression; PTSD; suicidal ideation, delusions; paranoia	PTSD as a result of wrongful incarceration for three year; having a difficult time in re-civilization	2015
	36	Ray Rice	M/31, Married to Janay, two children	Possible adverse child experiences	Arrested due to third-degree aggravated assault towards wife; Lack of mental health awareness	2014
	37	Faith Rodgers	F/21, African American, single, no children	PTSD, fear of future	Intimate partner violence; sexually abused by a famous music artist	2018
	38	Cheryl Reed	F/32, African American, 2 abused children	Bipolar Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, PTSD symptoms not diagnosed	Abused and neglected in childhood, aged out of foster care; Being charged for child neglect and abandonment after giving birth to the fifth child	2016
	39	Lavish "Diamond" Reynolds	F/28, African American, 1 child, Single	PTSD and Anxiety	Suffered from PTSD after boyfriend was gunned down by Police while their 4-year-old at the scene; Trust issue with criminal justice system	2016
	40	Christine Blasey Ford	F/52, Caucasian, married, 2 sons	Depression; PTSD; Disassociation	Alleged of being sexually assaulted by Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, during her high school age; Stigma against her about speaking the truth	2018
	41	Ana Carolina Fernandes	F/31, Latina (Brazilian origin), one five-year-old son, unmarried/separated	Depression and Anxiety	Immigration adjustment; Separated with son by the border patrol for 50 days; had concerns about son's emotion and behaviors	2018

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20	42	Michelle Murphy	F/40, Caucasian, not married, 3 kids, 8 th -grade education, became mom since age 15	Trauma Caused by Wrongful Incarceration	First-degree murder of her 15-week-old baby False confession, police misconduct	2014
	43	Flor Turico	F/41, Central American, 3 kids,; cartel kidnaps attempts to murder her but escapes	PTSD, mental breakdown and hospitalization	Introduction of alcohol, drugs and the bar scene, forced sex Flor becomes pregnant; a child was taken away; Human trafficking past leading to a mental breakdown	2019
	44	Sandra Sterling	F/60, Aunt of Alton Sterling (Black, M/37), raised Alton after his mother's death	Grieving, hypertension and insomnia, PTSD, complicated grief, and depression	The Loss of Loved one after the wrongful police shooting of Alton	2019
	45	Chanel Miller	F/22, Chinese-Caucasian mixed, writer, posted as Emily Doe	Dealing with PTSD with Advocacy Effort against Hegemony on College Campus	Raped in 2015 in a fraternity party on the Stanford campus. "Know my name" memoir published in September 2019 Victim Impact Statement	2019
	46	Robert Kelley	M/53, Black, musician	Unaddressed antisocial personality disorder and denial of child sexual abuse	Gained recognition in 1990 as a celebrity but indicted sexual contacts with teen girls and recruiting women for sex. Denied wrongdoing in sex videos	2019
	47	Shawn Oakman	M/27, African American,	Depression and Anxiety after Rape Accusations	Sexual assaulted women and used "hunger" and "no money" as excuses for wrongdoing; after-effect of being labeled a rapist	2015
	48	Shanara Mobley	F/37 (birth mother of Kamiyah Mobley, F/21), kidnapped 8 hrs after birth	Identity and Familial Confusion	Black kids being kidnapped at a higher rate than white kids	2017
	49	Leticia Serrano	F/15, Latina, abducted by a stranger and stayed with him for 2 years; introvert	Suicidal Ideation and Substance Use; anxiety disorder; grieving the loss of brother (and the abductor)	Assuming the client was still alive after the abduction after Quinceanera, concerned about Human Trafficking Impact	2019
	50	Sherry Johnson	F/58, Black, 6 kids, 2nd marriage separated in 2002 after 26 yrs of marriage	Seek faith-based support for advocacy work against child sexual abuse and child marriage	As a child raped by church bishop, deacon and stepdad Forced marriage as a Child Bride at 11	2019
	51	Korey Wise	M/47, African American, with learning disability and hearing loss	Moving Beyond Past Trauma and Dealing with PTSD	Wrongful conviction at age 16 and sentenced to serve 5-15 years in adult prison; Seek support to disseminate information about racism and coercion	2019
	52	Tarana Burke	F/46, African American, single mom with a 22yo daughter	Want to set up a community movement #MeToo to support and voice concerns to sexual trauma	Advocate of Resources and Safe Platforms for Sexual Assault Survivors Want to make sure girls (particularly minority girls) receive equal treatment	2019
	53	Channing Smith	M/16 Caucasian, Death by suicide	Depression, Anxiety, stress and humiliation	Cyberbullying of LGBTQ Youth Mental health issues/Support Groups of and for LGBTQ Youth Discrimination of LGBTQ Youth – D.A. did not pursue charges against the students that cyberbullied LGBTQ Youth	2019
	54	Shawn Pleasants	M/52, African-American, married, homosexual, no children.	Depression, drug addiction, unresolved grief	Homelessness problems for 10 yrs with co-occurring mental health issues; service not accessible or available	2019
	55	Stephen Paddock	M/66, Caucasian, divorced x2, no known children, oldest of 4 brothers, father was a bank robber	Bipolar, Depression, Paranoia; Substance misuse and gambling addiction; OCD with guns	Stephen Paddock killed 58 people on October 1, 2017 from his hotel room. He injured over 850 others.; did not seem to have any previous treatment	2019
56	Keith Thomas Kinnenun	M/43, White male gunman in a recent church shooting	Depression and paranoid personality disorder	Unresolved trauma, extreme mental health and substance use problems; criminal impact on employment opportunities, access to welfare resources, and parental involvement; inconsistency of services for the homeless	2019	

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					Oppression of those living in poverty, witness of gun violence	
	57	Nikolas Jacob Cruz	M/19, Caucasian, adopted, then orphaned	ADHD, Depression, developmental delays; OCD and oppositional defiant	Medical neglect and harm alerts; mass shooting and impact on high school students	2018
	58	Botham Jean	M/26, African American from St. Lucia. Killed by a Caucasian's female police officer.	PTSD, Depression, Alleged drug use	Unwarranted and unjustifiable police brutality against African Americans. Mistrust of police officers; criminalize the victim	2019
	59	Omar Mateen	M/29, Afghan American, divorced	Perceived "Mentally unstable /Mentally ill"; Domestic Violence on wife	The tragedy may have been a result of resentment of his own sexuality. Several classmates assumed that Mateen was a closeted gay man.	2016
	60	Patrick Crusius	M/21, Caucasian, college student who moved out of grandparents' house 6 weeks prior to shooting.	Loner, rare social interaction, irritable and short-tempered, bullied	The effect of school bullying; racism Social Injustice – Some of the laws that govern immigration and the views government officials hold about immigrants are damaging to other races and cultures.	2019
	61	Demi Lovato	F/28, Singer, mixed race	Binge-eating and self harm since age 12; father's mental health problems; bipolar disorder; drug overdose and addiction relapse	Lack of coping skills; fight against stigma; constant co-occurring disorder struggle unresolved	2018
	62	AJ Armstrong	M/20, African American, teenager accused of killing his parents	Grief and loss, legal issues, accused of a crime he is adamant not committed, spent teen years in jail.	Mental health disparities; disparities in the criminal justice system	2019
	63	Aaron Hernandez	M/28, Hispanic, Engaged, father	Brain damage with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), Depression	Childhood trauma and stigma on sexual identity; judgment problems due to brain injuries	2019
	64 *	Gypsy Rose	F/27, Caucasian, single, mother deceased	Severe child and adult abuse; possible borderline personality	Childhood trauma caused by a mental illness of mother's imposing Munchausen syndrome by proxy (now called "factitious disorder imposed on another FDIA) and faking her disabilities and cancer; current mental illness defiance disorder; accused of killing her mother with her boyfriend to escape from mother's control	2019
21H	65	Chrystul Kizer	F/19 - Trial for murder of M/34	PTSD, self-harm, and harm others	-Trafficking -Criminal Justice System	2019
	66	Chester Bennington	M/41- White, Married, Father of six, Suicide by hanging,	Suicide (with a focus on prevention?) Substance Abuse, Depression, childhood trauma.	Family and friends were unaware of the warning signs. Repeated relapse after being sober for several years. Had no mental health treatment	2017
	67	Lisa Montgomery	F/52 EXECUTED by lethal injection	mental illness, childhood trauma, childhood abuse	death penalty (executing people with mental illness)	2021
	68	Mya Ponsetto	F/22 -Caucasian and Puerto Rican; Arrested for assaulting teen	Substance use disorder; Alcohol use disorder; Aggressive disorder; Paranoid	Mental Health access and bias against needs (racial profiling)	2020
	69	Kyle Rittenhouse	M/17, Caucasian, single, no children, no known history of medical conditions/medications	-mental illness -homicidal ideations	Shooting occurred in Kenosha, WI, on August 25, 2020: Facing charges of first-degree intentional homicide, first-degree reckless homicide, and attempted first-degree intentional, reckless homicide. -criminal justice system; gun control reform	2020
	70	Misty Upham	F/32, Native American, single, no children (one pregnancy lost), history of sexual assault and rape	Mental Illness, childhood trauma, rape, PTSD, Substance abuse	--Lack of justice for Misty when she was raped and sexually assaulted. -Heavy reliance on medication for client -Lack of intervention for suicidal ideations -Lack of early intervention for trauma	2014
	71	James E. Holmes	M/33, Caucasian, single, no children (crime was committed when he was 24)	- Suicide attempts - Visual hallucinations - Homicidal ideations: Perpetrator of the 2012 Aurora, Colorado shooting - Borderline Personality Disorder DX	- Lack of early intervention mental health treatment that could have prevented shooting -Ignored warning signs by family/ friends/ and mental health professionals - Repeated inpatient hospitalizations leading up to shooting w/o hospital commitment - Calculated/ planned mass shooting at movie theater (Killed 12 people/ injured 70)	2012-2020

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	72	Walter Wallace	M/27, African American, married, father of 9 children, taking lithium and a mood stabilizer.	-3 days prior to the shooting client was admitted to a Crisis Center -Violence psychological episodes Shooting occurred in Philadelphia on October 26, 2020	-racial profiling by Philadelphia PD -Excessive force by Police (14 shots fired) - Lack of Mental Health resources used by Philadelphia PD (Crisis Intervention trained officers/ de-escalation training and improving coordination with mental health specialist)	2020
	73	Yovahnis Roque	M/26, Caucasian single father; living with his mother	Delusional thoughts, Paranoia, possible traumatic brain injury, possible PTSD; Injured in the accident which killed his daughter's mother; Later killed 2-year-old daughter with a hammer	Lack of access to mental health services--Client's mother obtained a mental health warrant on him	2019
	74	Pearl Fernandez	F/34, Hispanic, mother of three	Severe child abuse leads to child death. Diagnoses: depressive disorder, developmental disability, possible personality disorder, possible post-traumatic stress disorder, and homophobia Pearl and her boyfriend abused her 8-year-old son to the point of death.	No departmental intervention even after CPS was called several times. Child suffered 8 months of extreme abuse. School system did not follow up on the child's about when he stopped coming to school. Allowing the parent to state that he moved with other relatives with no proof.	2013
	75	Dimitrios Pagourtzis	M/ 17, at time of shooting. HS student	Depression, Intermittent Explosive Disorder, Personality Disorder	Premeditated school shooting and suicide (did not complete suicide plans). charged with capital murder; punishable by death or life without parole. Confined to cell 23 hrs out of the day.	2020
210	76	FKA Twigs	F/33, Biracial, Single, Actor/Singer, UK	PTSD, Trauma related depression	Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Abuse	2020
	77	James Holmes	M/25/Caucasian, graduate student	Homicidal ideations, suicidal ideations, Schizotypal personality disorder	Held in isolation; Planned homicide: was found to be sane at the time of shooting despite known mental illness and instability prior to the incident	2015
	78	William Rick Singer	M/58, Caucasian, Divorced	Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder, Histrionic Personality Disorder, Narcissism, Depression	Charged with Racketeering conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy, conspiracy to defraud the U.S., and obstruction of justice.	2019
	79	Jeffrey Epstein	M/66, Caucasian, single,	Pedophilia and depression	Sex trafficking and child abuse	2019
	80	Gabriel Fernandez	M/8, Hispanic, Palmdale, California	Depression, Anxiety	Child Neglect. Child Abuse	2020
	81	Kanye West	M/43, BLK Music Artist and fashion Designer	Bipolar Disorder, self-doubt	Publicly misrepresents BLK historical facts about slavery, which is harmful to the legacy and legitimacy of African Americans' contributions in America.	2020
	82	Johnny Depp	M/57, Caucasian, single, Actor	Alcohol Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, Depression, ADHD	Domestic Violence, lack of societal concern of male victims	2016-2020
	83	Gianna Floyd George Floyd's daughter	F/6, African American	Depression, Trauma, PTSD, nightmares	Disproportionately more people of color killed by Police	2020

YR=presentation year

Event year=the year when the issue was brought out (first time or the year current/recent discussions were found)

*Media case repeated: with a different mental health or justice focus