



APA PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF MENTAL HEALTH

Policy Workgroup

Allan Tasman, M.D. | December 1, 2021



Allan Tasman, M.D. (Chair)

Emeritus Professor and Schwab Endowed Chair in Social and Community Psychiatry at the University of Louisville. He is past president of the APA and four other national and international psychiatric organizations and Secretary for Education of the WPA. He founded the Lexington Free Clinic while in medical school and Passport Health Plan and a nationally recognized regional crisis intervention system while in Louisville. He currently serves on the National Advisory Council of SAMHSA and is Regional Vice President for North America in the World Federation for Mental Health. Tasman's Psychiatry, 5th edition, an internationally acclaimed comprehensive textbook, will be published in 2022.



Lisa Fortuna, M.D., M.P.H.

Professor & Vice-Chair at UCSF Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Chief of Psychiatry and at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. She is a bilingual and bicultural Latina Adult, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and has been an investigator on several National Institutes of Health and foundation-funded studies of Latinx and immigrant mental health, integrated care, access to care, and addressing social determinants of mental health through participatory and community-based implementation research.



Gary Belkin, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Founder & President, Billion Minds Institute, and Visiting Scientist, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. Former Executive Deputy Commissioner in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene where he led the Division of Mental Hygiene and its development and implementation of the innovative NYC-wide public mental health initiative, ThriveNYC. He was Medical Director for Behavioral Health across the Health and Hospitals Corporation of NYC. As Director of the NYU Program in Global Mental Health, he partnered with other groups globally to test and scale community-led models of mental health promotion and access in less resourced countries that are now widely used.

Please indicate the social determinants of health you regularly assess with new patients:

- Access to medical care
- Access to food, housing and transportation
- Access to functioning utilities (water, gas, electricity)
- Early childhood environment and childcare
- Personal safety and exposure to violence
- Education and health literacy
- Familial and social support/social isolation
- Employment and finances
- Other (Sexual Identification, Spiritual/religious values, etc.)
- None

Please indicate the social determinants of health you regularly assess or discuss with existing patients:

- Access to medical care
- Access to food, housing and transportation
- Access to functioning utilities (water, gas, electricity)
- Early childhood environment and childcare
- Personal safety and exposure to violence
- Education and health literacy
- Familial and social support/social isolation
- Employment and finances
- Other (Sexual Identification, Spiritual/religious values, etc.)
- None

The Task Force webpage provides links to tools and guidance for screening for social determinants of health including the following:

Social Needs Screening Tool

American Academy of Family Physicians: The EveryONE Project

PRAPARE: Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks, & Experiences Tool

National Association of Community Health Centers

Health-Related Social Needs Screening Tool (AHC-HRSN)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Accountable Health Communities

For more information go to psychiatry.org/socialdeterminantsofmentalhealth

The quest to address Social Determinants of Mental Health intrinsically focuses on societal, socio-economic, and socio-cultural contributors to risk and protective factors influencing mental health and illness. Because of this, our understanding and interventions are inextricably linked with anti-racism and social justice efforts.

APA has a number of resources to help educate ourselves and our colleagues including:

- **APA Primer of Online Resources on Structural Racism for Medical Students and Trainees in Psychiatry**
- **APA Resource Document on Advocating for Anti-Racist Mental Health Policies**



To learn more, go to the [“Structural Racism”](#) and [“Social Determinants of Mental Health”](#) task force webpages on [**psychiatry.org**](https://www.psychiatry.org).

In December 2018, the APA Board of Trustees approved the Position Statement on Mental Health Equity and the Social & Structural Determinants of Mental Health developed by the Council on Minority Mental Health & Health Disparities

The American Psychiatric Association:

- **Supports legislation and policies that promote mental health equity and improve the social and structural determinants of mental health, and formally objects to legislation and policies that perpetuate structural inequities.**



The American Psychiatric Association:

- **Advocates for the dissemination of evidence-based interventions that improve both the social and mental health needs of patients and their families.**
- **Urges healthcare systems to assess and improve their capabilities to screen, understand, and address the structural and social determinants of mental health.**



The American Psychiatric Association:

- **Supports medical and public education on the structural and social determinants of mental health, mental health equity, and related evidence-based interventions.**
 - Urges medical school and graduate medical education accrediting and professional bodies to emphasize educational competencies in structural and social determinants of mental health and mental health equity.
 - Urges psychiatry residency training directors and other psychiatric educators to use systematic approaches to teaching about structural and social determinants of mental health.
 - Supports the training of psychiatrists, in graduate and continuing medical education, in best practices to address the structural and social determinants of mental health and promote health equity.



The American Psychiatric Association:

- **Advocates for increased funding for research to better understand the mechanisms by which structural and social determinants affect mental illness and recovery and to develop new evidence-based interventions to promote mental health equity.**



QUESTIONS?