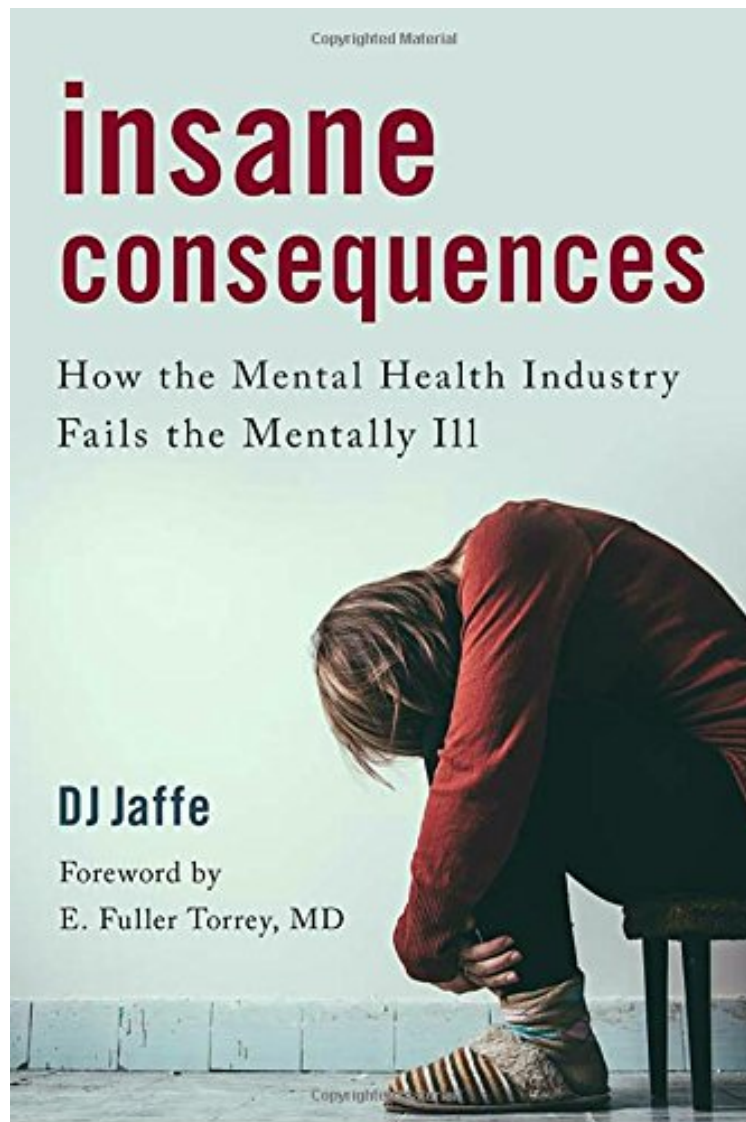


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Insane Consequences: How the Mental Health Industry Fails the Mentally Ill

DJ Jaffe

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DJ Jaffe : Insane Consequences: How the Mental Health Industry Fails the Mentally Ill before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Insane Consequences: How the Mental Health Industry Fails the Mentally Ill:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Top Notch Review of Problems and Solutions By Rex Moody This clear, concise, and expertly reasoned discussion of our country's shameful approach to treatment for

people with serious mental illness should be required reading for every federal and state legislator. There is so much work to be done, and DJ Jaffe has put it all right here for people who want to understand the problems and to begin work on real solutions. If you are concerned with what happens next to the mentally ill in our country, my suggestion is buy this book, read it, understand it, and then buy another copy to send to your representatives and senators. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. And the Band Played On in Mental Illness! By a reader I was excited to receive Jaffe's book today, and I was not disappointed. Spending a few hours skimming over the topics, I look forward to thoroughly pouring over it in the next week. Jaffe was a fixture at NAMI conventions back in the 1990's when I was attending. He knows how special those years were to all of us. He followed on NARSAD's National Leadership Council along with me, but I never had the pleasure of meeting him. He shows a true devotion to his sister-in-law, who brought him to his life's work. Although I do not agree with all of the book's points, especially about the work for mental illness prevention, Jaffe knows what he is talking about of services. He sees the NAMI focus on stigma as limiting its effectiveness, which I now agree. He is the answer for a Dorothea Dix of our generation, he has such a nationwide focus. Thank you for the effort. Luanne Holsinger 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Review of *Insane Consequences* By Eric D. Revere Kudos to DJ Jaffe! I highly recommend this book to any family member with a loved one who has a major mental illness who is interested in becoming involved in advocacy. As a mental health advocate for many years, I can say that DJ nails it when he writes about the faults of the current mental health system and how taxpayer-funded and other organizations and bureaucracies have hindered integrated community treatment systems such as Assisted Outpatient Treatment when the majority of the educated public believe it's a good thing. I have seen this first hand as a large US county supervisor's representation on a county mental health advisory board. As someone with a family member suffering with schizophrenia for many years, I have also experienced the stigma, ignorance and fear of the uneducated public towards mental illness. I think it will probably take two or three more generations for this stigma to be overcome through education. My wife and I have also experienced how very difficult and sometimes impossible it is for middle-class families to get treatment help for their seriously ill loved ones unless they go deeply in debt by resorting to private health care providers. DJ also identifies and documents the stark realities of the current treatment system failure and what a dramatic effect it is having on our country.

This well-researched and highly critical examination of the state of our mental health system by the industry's most relentless critic presents a new and controversial explanation as to why--in spite of spending \$147 billion annually--140,000 seriously mentally ill are homeless, 390,000 are incarcerated, and even educated, tenacious, and caring people can't get treatment for their mentally ill loved ones. DJ Jaffe blames the mental health industry and the government for shunning the 10 million adults who are the most seriously mentally ill--mainly those who suffer from schizophrenia and severe bipolar disorder--and, instead, working to improve "mental wellness" in 43 million others, many of whom are barely symptomatic. Using industry and government documents, scientific journals, and anecdotes from his thirty years of advocacy, Jaffe documents the insane consequences of these industry-driven policies: psychiatric hospitals for the seriously ill are still being closed; involuntary commitment criteria are being narrowed to the point where laws now require violence rather than prevent it; the public is endangered; and the mentally ill and their families are forced to suffer. *Insane Consequences* proposes smart, compassionate, affordable, and sweeping reforms designed to send the most seriously ill to the head of the line for services rather than to jails, shelters, prisons, and morgues. It lays out a road map to spend less on mental "health" and more on mental "illness"--replace mission creep with mission control and return the mental health system to a focus on the most seriously ill. It is not money that is lacking; it's leadership. This book is a must-read for anyone who works in the mental health industry or cares about the mentally ill, violence, homelessness, incarceration, or public policy.

“One of the most important books written on how to reform the mental health system.” —E. Fuller Torrey, MD, author of *Surviving Schizophrenia* “Essential reading for anyone concerned about America’s most vulnerable.” —Sally Satel, MD, Yale University School of Medicine “The truth in this book haunts me with its blazing clarity. Jaffe’s informed and passionate plea for fundamental change is rooted in a sense of deep humanity. He has paid attention to those who are neglected and suffering right under our noses and challenges us to do something about it.” —Glenn Close, actress and cofounder of Bring Change 2 Mind “A timely and thoughtful analysis of a broken system that needs replacing.” —Pete Earley, bestselling author of *Crazy: A Father’s Search Through America’s Mental Health Madness* “Illuminates the countless and unacceptable failures of our mental health system—including the barbaric criminalization of mental illness.” —Thomas J. Dart, Cook County sheriff “A slashing, comprehensive, highly readable call to awareness and action.” —Ron Powers, Pulitzer prizewinner and author of *No One Cares about Crazy People* “This book will break your heart, make you furious, and ultimately give you hope when you read Jaffe’s smart ideas for reform.” —Susan Adams, senior editor, *Forbes* “[We’re] forcing people with no recognition of their illness onto the streets or into the jails in the name of civil liberties. *Insane Consequences* details what we should do.” —Norman Ornstein, resident scholar, American Enterprise Institute “DJ

Jaffe calls us back to common sense and basic decency in this deeply felt, important book. —Rich Lowry, editor, National *Journal*; "A smart and compassionate call to action." —Allen Frances, former chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Duke and of the DSM-IV Task Force, and author of *Saving Normal* "I am proud that DJ Jaffe, a constituent and member of the Harlem chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness, has been tirelessly advocating to help the seriously mentally ill. Through increased awareness and improved public policy as outlined in this book, we can combat challenges we face to ameliorate mental health." —Charlie Rangel, former representative (D-NY) About the Author DJ Jaffe is executive director of Mental Illness Policy Org., a nonpartisan think tank, which creates detailed policy analysis for legislators, the media, and advocates. He regularly appears on television and has written opinion pieces for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and articles for *National* and *Huffington Post*. He has served with numerous nonprofits including the Treatment Advocacy Center and National Alliance on Mental Illness. He has a seriously mentally ill relative and lives with his wife, Rose, and dog, Pickles, in Harlem.