Feeding the Revolution of Hope

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Zoe Star, 7 weeks
Personal ties
Poor People’s Campaign, 1967

“I think it is necessary for us to realize that we have moved from the era of civil rights to the era of human rights...[W]hen we see that there must be a radical redistribution of economic and political power.” MLK
Situating the Impact of Poverty, Disadvantage & Trauma
“Bertrand Russell made a memorable comment about belief systems; ‘Every man, wherever he goes, is encompassed by a cloud of comforting convictions, which move with him like flies on a summer day’. Scientists use belief systems to organize data, to build models and to generate hypotheses. Belief systems are handed down from generation to generation and, along with data, form a shared currency within communities of researchers. However, what happens when our beliefs depart from the data? When belief systems become seriously disconnected from the data, why is it that some are readily rejected while others linger on well past their use-by date? Is it possible that some discrepant beliefs persist because they serve a deeper role within the culture of science? [Perhaps these beliefs] may have persisted because of an unspoken deeper belief that schizophrenia is an egalitarian and exceptional disorder.”

--John McGrath, 2004
2. Access to Care
3. Systems that Replicate Hierarchies of Power
4. Long-Term Disadvantage & Downward Mobility
Drivers
1. Race, Violence & ‘Schizophrenia’
2. Welfare ‘Reform’
3. The ADA & ADAA
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Paths Forward
1. Acknowledge Social & Structural Determinants
2. Restore Meaning to the Development, Experience & Impact of Psychosis
I was on heroin…on dope and heroin… Early years I was in a gang. I got into trouble. I’ve been in jail. They gave me a choice. Got to the military or face something’ else. I went into the military, I went to Vietnam after trainin’. I came back home and I got into trouble…. My mother, she was a heroin addict. I had a problem with her ‘cause people wanna take advantage of her. That’s were most of my problems start.

I started stickin’ up, stealin’ to start supplyin’ my mother’s heroin so she wouldn’t have to go out there on the streets [as a prostitute]. All that’s to say I had no chance at life—at childhood or life.

Then I committed a robbery. I went to state bill. Then I got news that my mother had OD’d and died. The administration program warden, security warden, they denied me to go to the funeral ‘cause my gang affiliation. Two days later this—call it the chow hall, mess hall. The lieutenant that walked up to me walkin’ down the aisle lookin’ at me laughin’. He’s the one that recommend that I shouldn’t go. If he say yes, I would go ‘cause he had a lot of the influence. He walked up to me and said “I’m sorry but I couldn’t let you go” with a smile on his face.

I ain’t see nothin that was so funny. I pick up the plastic knife and stuck it in his neck…. When the lieutenant was talking to me, my mother was talking to me too. See what I’m saying? [I hear her all the time.] I think if I wouldn’t have heard voices, I probably wouldn’t have stabbed him. [But] my mother said “He no good, he no good, do something to him.” I couldn’t take it. I had to pick up and stab him in the neck.”

The state pressed charges. They found me not guilty only cause of reasonable insanity. They put me in…the hospital. I stayed out a long time. When I come out. I didn’t have nothin.

--African American man, grew up on Chicago’s South Side
3. Repoliticize, Re-structuralize