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Mental Health and Deafness: Professional Perspectives on Deafness, Evidence and Applications By Margaret Du Feu, & Cathy Chovaz. Oxford University Press USA. 2014. £25.99 (pb). 320 pp. ISBN: 9780199860753

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Being Deaf in a hearing world often limits peoples' chance to reach their full potential. This is because the majority of Deaf people have historically experienced limited access to general information and services, and might have been exposed to forms of education that have not met their needs. This is even more apparent when one considers Deaf people with mental health problems. This is the theme of this well-presented scholarly book by du Feu and Chovaz. With a passionate, clear, and succinct manner free from statistical jargon and unnecessary referencing, this easy to read book sheds light on most, if not all, inequalities experienced by Deaf people specifically related to mental health.

There are 21 chapters that aim to capture key points in 4 distinct areas: deafness and Deaf people; children and adolescents; adult mental health; and special areas (acquired deafness, deaf-blindness, older adults, forensics, and service development). In light of the limited evidence and services currently available, the large volume of information in a single manual

is of great value. Also worth noting are the numerous and highly informative clinical vignettes. These often illustrate unusual cases or unique presentations of readily identifiable problems as they manifest in this population and are of great educational and clinical value.

du Feu and Chovaz, both deafened and sign language users, put together an all-rounder manual that offers a unique insight into the complexities of working with this population and is ideal for use as a reference textbook by professionals in clinical training. The authors' vast amount of clinical expertise will prove immensely valuable to those unfamiliar with this population. For clinicians specialised in mental health and Deafness the information presented in this book should be familiar, but the volume remains valuable to them as a reference for the provision of good clinical practice. The book would also be a valuable resource to academics from a variety of backgrounds, as the clinical manifestations of mental health problems in Deaf people are relevant across disciplines.

Having been a teacher of Deaf children, clinically trained to work with Deaf adults, and specialised on psycholinguistics in Deaf psychosis, I particularly welcomed the emphasis on the importance of language throughout assessment, history taking and treatment of any problem a Deaf person might experience. I wish this book had been available during my training.

Words: 386