

The concept of Recovery in the field of the mental health
:Focusing on MHA Village Integrated Services Agency

Koji MINAMIYAMA

The purpose of this paper is to discuss about the meaning of recovery in the field of the mental health by focusing on MHA Village Integrated Services Agency. Village ISA is an adult integrated services recovery program of Mental Health America of Los Angeles. This program helps people with mentally ill to recovery from mental illness.

Village ISA psychiatrist Mark Ragins, M.D., believes that basing mental health services on recovery is the paradigm shift that can make the dream deinstitutionalization a reality. He presents his concept that recovery has four stages – hope, empowerment, self-responsibility and a meaningful role in life.

At first this paper attempts to examine the history of MHA and Village ISA. And next we clarify the features of services driven by MHA and Village ISA. Finally we discuss about the meaning of recovery in the services of Village ISA by clarifying differences between the medical model and the services of Village ISA based on the concept of recovery.