

## **Social Determinants of Mental Health**

Ruth Shim, MD, MPH

Closing Presenter

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (1.5)

### Narrative

The relationship between social justice and mental health is multi-faceted, complex, and has significant implications – not only for individual patients, but also for society. To understand social justice as it relates to mental health, one must consider the framework of the social determinants of mental health – the conditions into which we are born, grow, live, work, and age – as they are most responsible for the health and mental health inequities that exist in society. Certain segments of our population (especially people with serious mental illnesses) disproportionately experience striking inequities and disparities in health outcomes. Furthermore, people who have serious mental illness have an increased vulnerability to the deep-rooted inequities in major systems such as criminal justice, child welfare, and healthcare. This presentation aims to introduce forensic mental health practitioners to the concept of social justice and to the role of social injustice in perpetuating these inequities.

### BIO

#### **Ruth Shim, MD, MPH**

Ruth Shim is holder of the Luke & Grace Kim Professorship in Cultural Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. She is an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Director of Cultural Psychiatry, and Chair of the Vice Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Faculty Excellence in Diversity at UC Davis Health.

Ruth received an MPH in health policy from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and an MD from Emory University School of Medicine. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Community Psychiatrists.

She serves on the Editorial Boards of *Psychiatric Services*, *Community Mental Health Journal*, and American Psychiatric Publishing, and is co-editor of the book, *The Social Determinants of Mental Health*, and an upcoming book on social justice and mental health, to be published in the fall of 2020. She is a 2018-2019 Fellow of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program, and an at-large member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. Ruth's research focuses on mental health disparities and inequities, and she provides clinical psychiatric care in the UC Davis Early Diagnosis and Preventative Treatment (EDAPT) Clinic.

### Learning Objectives

- 1) To define social justice, the social determinants of mental health, and mental health inequities
- 2) To consider how social injustice contributes to mental health inequities
- 3) To examine the role of social injustice on the field of forensic mental health