

## REFLECTION ESSAY

I've learned a lot about the mentally ill and problems the government needs to fix when dealing with these issues. I learned what the main problem is when it comes to government supporting the mentally ill. But I heard the comment that it's not all the governments fault. I also learned that it's not all about the government funding things such as events that may help the mentally ill.

What's the main problem? Well as I was listening to panelist I noticed that they all talked about funding being a problem. They were basically saying that funding is low and needs to increase. Mr. Hutto stated "All of government has a role when it comes to dealing with the mentally ill." Each branch of government should take a better role and provide what the mentally ill need and right now it's funding. The National Mental Health Association pamphlet also said funding needed to be increased. So it's obvious that funding is the major issue. Without funding there's no way to educate others about the mentally ill, provide shelter for those who have nowhere to go, build clinics or any thing else they need to try to survive. Mrs. Brady mentioned that "More detainees are in jails and in hospitals" if there was more clinic this wouldn't happen.

Money's not the only problem. Stigma is a real big problem. If people knew about the illnesses they probably wouldn't make fun of or discriminate the mentally ill. If the government knew more about those illnesses they would see how important this is. Fortunately, there are mental health counselors in some school so there is some educating happening.

It's not all the governments fault though. They have to take care of and manage the whole country. They have to reconstruct

roads, do taxes and lots of other things. But, they could still do more than what's being done. That's where the community comes in. If there were more fund-raisers that went to the mentally ill, it would help at the least. The community can't do everything though.

In conclusion, the main problem is funding. There are no clinics being built because there is no money. The government has to take care of many other things, but should still do more for the mentally ill. If people were more educated about the mentally ill, things wouldn't be as bad.