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# SETTING THE CONTEXT FOR THE FORUM AND FOR POLICY

# The Forum

- Is there a policy bridge between mental health research and mental health practice in the United States?
- If so, does the bridge actually work?
  - Is the research agenda relevant to practice?
  - Does practice inform the research agenda?
- Some visual analogues:
  - Research = New York
  - Practice = Calcutta
  - The Policy Bridge = ?

# Formative Factors in National Policy

- 1. Treatment Works
  - --SG Satcher *Report on Mental Health* (1998)
- 2. Care Integration is Required
  - --IOM Study on *Improving the Quality of Health Care....* (2005)
- 3. Mental Health Insurance Benefits Will be at Parity
  - --Wellstone-Domenici Legislation (2008)
- 4. Recovery Is Essential
  - --Evolution of Concept; Federal *10 x 10 Initiative*

# Current Policy Concerns in the *Affordable Care Act*

- 1. Universal Insurance Coverage and Extension of Parity
- 2. No Pre-Existing Condition Exclusions
- 3. Fostering Medical and Health Homes
- 4. Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- 5. Achieving “Recovery” and “Resilience”

# Some Likely Future National Policy Concerns

- 1. Integration with Public Health and Community Interventions
- 2. Positive Mental Health Promotion
- 3. Personalized Care with Customized Drugs
- 4. Genetic Engineering

# Our Question Today

- What role will the *Affordable Care Act* play with respect to the policy bridge between research and practice? Will it facilitate? Will it inhibit?

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