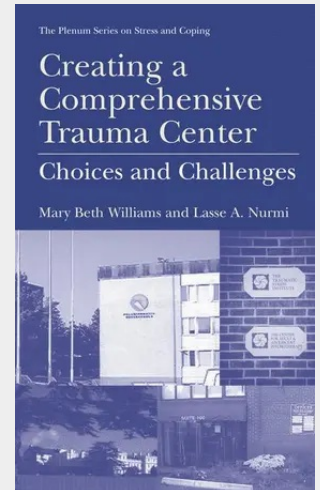


Creating a Comprehensive Trauma Center

Choices and Challenges

Early Thoughts on Creating Comprehensive Trauma Centers This volume has been many years in writing. When Dr. Donald Meichenbaum first suggested it and I approached my coauthor Lasse Nurmi, it did not seem to be as formidable a task as it has become. Interviewing the centers in this book has taken years-to get responses, to summarize those responses, and to return the summaries for further comment. Many centers have been created in that time; others have suspended operation. This volume does not claim to present even a majority of those centers. However, the ones contained herein are representative of "what is out there. " The idea to create a comprehensive trauma center is not new. The initial section of this forward examines thoughts I proposed as part of my comprehensive examination for my doctorate. Many of the ideas proposed then (1989) seem to fit now. It is my dream to put them into practice someday in the future. THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION QUESTION In 1989, one question on the written comprehensive examination questions for my doctorate was, "If you were to create a comprehensive trauma center in your suburban area, making use of what you have learned in your [doctoral] experience, describe the organization of that center, the mission, structure, personnel, funding, objectives, and services it would offer. " Some of the conclusions reached then now seem applicable to the task at hand: designing comprehensive trauma centers (CTCs) for the 21st century.

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