

2. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia are the absence of, or pathological deficits, of speech, emotions, volition, and social capacity. In poverty of speech individuals will speak little, or what they do communicate will often lack meaning. I worked with a young person who never spoke out loud. He kept a journal and would occasionally write you a word or two to communicate. Once time he left his notebook in the living room overnight, and I opened it to identify whose it was, and the sentences made no coherent thoughts. Restricted Affect are those that do not show a great capacity to express joy, anger, or other feelings. Their faces often carry a flat affect and they do not make strong eye contact. This does not mean they do not have any feelings at all. On the contrary, the clinical community is recognizing more and more the ways those living with schizophrenia may be experiencing a great deal of internal anxiety or depression. Loss of volition is the pervasive apathy or loss of energy. Simple day to day tasks, like eating or dressing becomes insurmountable mountains to climb. Finally, social withdrawal is the pulling away from community and social environment. This creates an even more distancing from reality that deteriorates social skills, empathy, and a recognition of other people's needs. The same individual I mentioned above, often kept to himself in shelter. He would go to corners of rooms and sway from side to side for hours, sometimes muttering to himself. He never exhibited any forms of violence, and was generally responsive to instructions from staff even though he was not conversational. The one time this individual jumped into action beyond any form of movement we had seen from him before is when a fight broke out in shelter, he jumped in between the guy and girl in defense of the girl, not really doing anything other than yelling "no, no, no" and / shocking the attacker a bit before staff could intervene.