# The Shift From Happiness to Flourishing

### The Shift From Happiness to Flourishing

A two-continua model of mental health and illness

- The epidemiological transition
- We need to shift our ideas of health care for a new reality

## The Shift From Happiness to Flourishing (cont.)

- Construct definition—conceptual and operational
- Mental health(MH)—13 scales
  - Positive emotions
    - Positive affect
    - Satisfaction

### Positive Psychological Functioning

- Self-acceptance
- Personal growth
- Purpose in life
- Environmental mastery
- Autonomy
- Positive relations with others

### Positive Social Functioning

- Tolerant of different kinds of people
- Sees potential for social improvement
- Sees daily activities as useful and valuable for society
- Interested in social life and the social world
- Has a sense of belonging

### Flourishing and Languishing Scores

- Flourishing equals at least one high score on a measure of positive emotions and high scores on at least 6 of the remaining 11 measures of mental health
- Languishing equals at least one low score on a measure of positive emotions and low scores on at least six measures of mental health

# A Factor Analytic Study of the Two-Continua Model

## A Factor Analytic Study of the Two Continua Model

 Sample—national sample of adults from 25 to 74

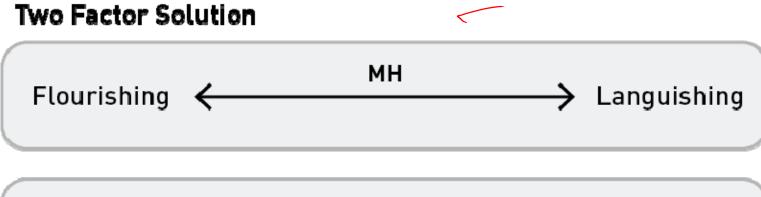
### Mental Illness (MI)

### Symptoms of

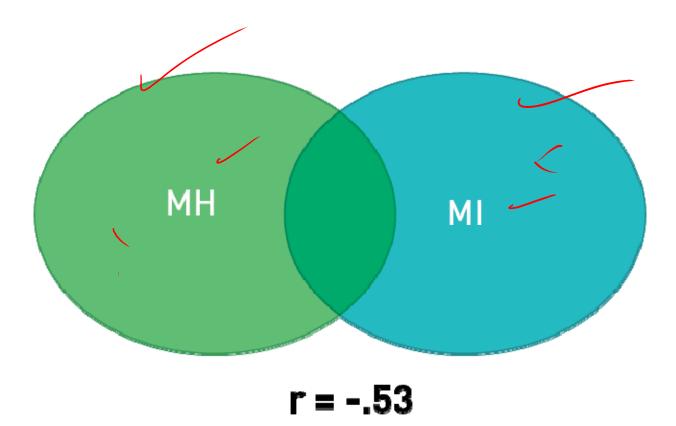
- Major depression
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Panic disorder
- Alcohol dependence

#### Single Factor Solution





Low Mental ← MI → High Mental Illness



MH + MI = CMH (Complete Mental Health)

## Some Findings in Relation to Indices of Health

- Fewest workdays missed
- Health limitations for activities of daily living
- Chronic diseases
- Levels of health care utilization
- Levels of psychosocial functioning

# People high on MH and low on MI did the best overall on most measures.

### Some Findings in Relation to Chronic Health Conditions

- People high on MI (depression) and low on MH—4.5 chronic conditions
- People high on MI (depression) and high on MH—3.5 chronic conditions
- People low on MI (depression) and low on MH—3.5 chronic conditions
- People high on complete mental health—
  1.5 chronic conditions

The absence of flourishing (or presence of languishing) along with MI compounds the risk of chronic disease with age.

### Policy Implications

- Invest in pathogenic approaches
- Invest in salutogenic (wellness) approaches
- A rationale for a program in Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness

# Language for a Two-Continua Model

### Language for a Two-Continua Model

- Keyes
  - Mental health (MH) (flourishing to languishing)
  - Mental illness (MI)
  - Complete mental health (high MH plus low MI)
- NYU
  - Mental healthWellness

### Diagnostic Implications



### Diagnostic Implications

- The need for measurement and labels
- The problem with measurement and labels

### A Different Approach

- Dimensions instead of categories
- Symptoms don't signal underlying pathology
- Include positive and negative dimensions of personal functioning
- Include positive and negative aspects of the context in which the person lives

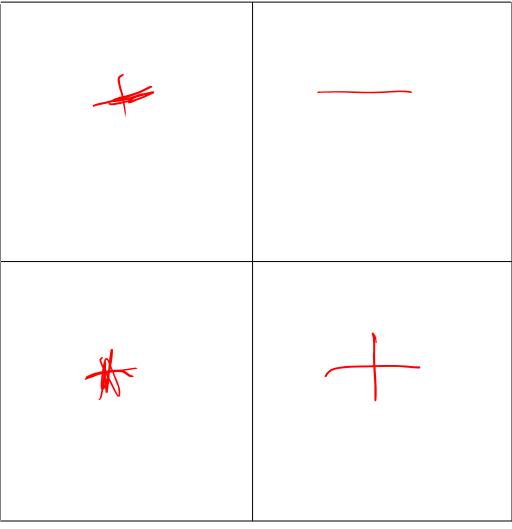
### LOCUS

Person Environs

Liabilities

### CONTENT

**Assets** 



- Data synthesis, including social location and culture
- Leading to a "tentative working client model"
- In interaction with counseling/treatment

