

Vito Flaker

## TEAMS AS THE MEANS OF INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

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The author considers the necessity of interdisciplinary team action in mental health to derive from mental distress being a complex, multifaceted phenomenon. The need for it has become more expressed in community mental health and especially where there has been a shift towards individualisation of the services. Teamwork on the one hand supports the holistic treatment of individuals, and on the other, the division of work and power among the professionals. There can be various forms of professional teamwork: informal networks, formal teams and client teams. Teamwork dynamics follow not only group dynamics but also the transformation of professionals' roles and power as well as the empowerment of users. Social work's contribution to teamwork may be significant due to its epistemological advantages: interdisciplinarity, contextuality and social reflexiveness in terms of »translating«, not only amongst professionals to one another but also to users and carers, of connecting professional work to ordinary life, and of transforming theory into action.

Sonja Žorga

OPEN DILEMMAS IN THE PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION  
THE FUNCTIONS OF SUPERVISION AND HOW TO CARRY THEM OUT

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The decision to organise professional supervision is usually met with a number of content-related and organisational problems amongst the management and other professionals themselves. They wonder whether supervision is to be obligatory, what is it to be focused upon, how to choose a suitable supervisor and what form is a supervisory group to assume. They may hesitate between voluntary and obligatory supervision and ponder on the size of the group, the frequency and length of supervisory sessions and the duration of a supervisory cycle. None of these questions can be answered univocally, as the solution depends on several circumstances, wishes and in particular the purposes supervision is to follow. The author presents some basic functions of supervision, and in throwing light on various possibilities, she offers a variety of answers to, and solutions of, the dilemmas that accompany these questions.

Zorica Mršević

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE INCESTUOUS TYPE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

*Zorica Mršević, Ph. D., is senior scientific associate at Institute for criminological and sociological research, Belgrade.*

Child mistreatment often contains traumatic dimensions, but it is held that the incestuous type of abuse leaves a child with life-long consequences. The paper first cites a few fragments of authentic stories of women who survived incest and then considers the consequences of incest in the time of its taking place as well as its subsequent consequences which are felt practically the whole life. Next, homosexual orientation is discussed as not deriving from the incest trauma. The final discussion offers theses about socially unbalanced gender relations as the main factor not

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only in incestuous abuse of children but also in silence which accompanies these child traumas as a rule. The work of women groups, when lay, doesn't always represent the most adequate response to post-incest syndrome.

Cveto Uršič

### EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED PEOPLE IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

*Graduate of law and sociology Cveto Uršič, M. A., is director of programme and member of the board at Republic of Slovenia Institute of rehabilitation, national co-ordinator for international non-governmental organisation Rehabilitation International, and head of the task group for the preparation of the national programme of training and employment of the disabled at Slovenian Ministry of labour, family and social affairs*

The paper analyses the position of sheltered workshops in Slovenia and in European Union. The presented findings summarize the research the author undertook in 1996. Sheltered workshops seem to be organised very differently in individual states – meaning, among other things, that neither Slovenia nor European Union has formed a clear and reconciliated policy regarding the development of sheltered workshops and the employment of the disabled people under special conditions. In conclusion, the author presents recommendations based on the analysis of the current state of affairs and on the directions formulated in international documents.

Darja Zaviršek

### SOCIAL WORK IN SLOVENIA

#### IN THE GRIP OF GLOBAL CONCEPTUAL SHIFTS

The paper deals with the conceptual shifts and blind spots which can be found in Slovenian social work. It attempts to explain the fact that in the past, social work was concerned mainly with the youth and families, neglecting work with the aged and the disabled people. This is put in relation with family-centred culture and the dominant medical model which left the decisions about those groups to large institutions. Attention is drawn to defence mechanisms in social work that can be found in the form of unintentional racism, and to certain taboo subjects such as the question of power and powerlessness of social workers. The author criticises the concept of 'general good' that does not take into account the dominant discursive practice and its impact upon the theory and practice of social work. Finally, she finds that social work in Slovenia, too, includes personal, interpersonal and political work. The conceptual shifts are the evidence of both its diversity and mutual impact among different conceptual stakes.

Jože Valenčič

### FOUR YEARS LATER

*Sociologist and social worker Jože Valenčič is counsellor to the government at Ministry of labour, family and social affairs.*

The Law of social welfare has been passed four years ago, and the author takes the opportunity to present the main features of social welfare legislation in Slovenia, along with assessing and commenting the solutions he considers influential for the future development of the field. His basic findings show that the Slovenian model social welfare organisation is quite modern in taking into account the user and his or her distress and problems; further, that it is well adapted to the characteristics of a small state under the pressures of developmental problems, but that its implementation is rather slow. Some obstacles may result from the very fact that the concept is 'new', thus taking time, while others are clearly due to the gaps in the Law itself; therefore, the author takes a stand in favour of its analysis and supplementation.