

Darja Zaviršek

## CRISIS TEAM AS A WAY OF AVOIDING PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALISATION

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The paper discusses a social innovation in the field of mental health: the team of volunteers acting on behalf of the person who experiences mental distress. The crisis team, which in the case described in the article was composed of social workers and students, offer an opportunity that the person concerned survives his or her crisis at home or in another safe place instead of in a psychiatric institution, thus avoiding the asylum mentality and the procedures of degradation characteristic of large institutions. The members of a crisis team stand by a person and provide for peaceful and safe surroundings until the crisis is over. The paper describes the founding and actions of a crisis team for a middle-aged woman who had long experiences with psychiatric hospitalisation. The problems of its five-week existence are recalled, as are the moments of safe relationships and mutual learning. Also, the meaning of time and of reciprocity enabled by the crisis team situation are discussed.

Vesna Švab

THE ANALYSIS OF THE EFFICIENCY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE CITY OF LJUBLJANA  
A RESEARCH REPORT

*Vesna Švab, M. A., M. D., is a psychiatrist, head of the department for women at Centre of clinical psychiatry, assistant lecturer at University of Ljubljana Medical Faculty and psychotherapist. She is supervisor and counsellor at Slovenian Association for Mental Health ŠENT, co-operating with governmental and non-governmental organisations at home and abroad, particularly in the field of promoting new outpatient forms of care for persons with mental problems.*

The author defines the most acute problems faced by the users of mental health services. The fundamental principles of therapy and rehabilitation and their links are presented in short. Community care and the organisation of care are described as they have been carried out in the recent years at ŠENT. The research evaluates the results achieved in that volunteer organisation and finds that the most important achievements have occurred in the fields of employment and socialising. The experiment has given evidence that significant changes may be accomplished in quality care for users, and indirectly in the quality of their lives, even with low financing, provided the leadership and organisation are good. At the same time, it is becoming quite clear that this form of help, with the present system of support and financing, cannot remain in the voluntary sector; thus, to delegate the organisation of care to civil organisations and associations is both senseless and irresponsible.

Srečo Dragoš

THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF POVERTY IN SLOVENIA  
(PART 1)

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The trends show that by the introduction of capitalist economy and social stratification poverty may become a topical issue in Slovenia as well. But even though the gaining of wealth of some

people and the impoverishment of others are indeed simultaneous phenomena, this does not necessarily mean that there is a causal relation between the two. The author bases his point on the case of the political history of poverty as it prevailed between the two world wars in Slovenia. That the most important reasons for its emergence were political can be seen from the combination of three factors discussed in this part: the emergence of main political actors at the end of the previous century (and their formation as political parties), the significance of political splits for the development of trade union movements, and the role of the state in the regulation of labour relations. The second part of the paper (to be published in the next issue) deals with the question of what poverty actually meant at the time, that is, what was its material dimension between the wars in Slovenia.

Magdalena Paleczny-Zapp

TRANSITION AND THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN POLAND

*Magdalena Paleczny-Zapp, Ph. D., a Pole living in the USA for the past twenty years, is professor of international economical relations at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. She is a specialist for Eastern Europe and takes special interest in the position of women during the transitional processes in Eastern Europe.*

The paper discusses the impact of the transitional processes on the position of women in Poland. Although women were in the front rows of Solidarity and fought equally with men for political and economical changes in Poland, they themselves seem the first victims of transition. The abolition of social programmes, the reduction of kindergarten network, the capitalism of primary accumulation has put before women a drastic dilemma: family or job. The dilemma is strengthened by the revival of patriarchal morality (with all the accompanying phenomena) and the strong influence of the Catholic Church.

Ivan Janko Cafuta

OLD AGE AND THE AGED IN HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

*Sociologist Ivan Janko Cafuta is private counsellor in the field of social care.*

In his discussion of institutional care, the author presents a series of quantitative indicators of how the field is organised. For the most part, he debates the position of the people who spend the last years of their lives at homes for the aged, and compares life in hospitals with life in such homes. Both are organised similarly – as a kind of industry. The homes for the aged provide for the satisfaction of primary needs better than for more specific ones. The modern way of life probably demands such institutions, yet more attention should be paid to the co-operation between the aged persons' relatives and the institution, and there should be more opportunities for mobility between their homes and the »home«, so that they might return home more frequently, or alternatively, the »home« should become more like a proper home.

Stanija Ivajnsič

A MODEL AND THE IMPACT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS' VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WORK  
IN A HOME FOR THE AGED

*Social worker Stanija Ivajnsič works in Danica Vogrinc Home of the Aged, Maribor.*

Introducing secondary school pupils' voluntary social work to homes for the aged is a further step towards the opening of the latter to the outside, the lessening of the generation gap and the mitigation of institutional effects on the aged. The presented model is the result of a long-term co-operation between Danica Vogrinc home for the aged and the II<sup>nd</sup> grammar school in Maribor. The statistics show the positive interaction and mutual satisfaction of both sides, the pupils and the old people. In organising such voluntary work, co-operation between the pupil's tutor and the home social worker turned out to be of great importance. The roles of all participants must be clearly defined. Voluntary social work is a great challenge for a social worker, as it comprises all the methods of his or her professional work.