

Bridges Between Social Work and Health Intervention (Dispatch)

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Social work in health care has a history of more than a hundred years, during which time it has experienced interesting developments and difficult procedural changes. These developments and changes are also reflected in the terminology itself, since other terms were used again and again for these activities, e.g. B. Hospital social work, psychiatric social work, medical and psychiatric social work or clinic social work. Another important terminological link is the different naming of the person being cared for: while in health care it is the patient, in social work it is more the customer.

One of the special features of social work is the mediation of interactions between clients (patients) and their social environment. And it was this specificity that emphasized the legitimacy of

social work in implementing health interventions. The social diagnosis of the patient, his personal, family, professional or other situation, carried out by social workers, has therefore become a functional part of treatment and other medical interventions. The fundamental need to know and understand the social context of a given health problem as a prerequisite for effective treatment has thus become a solid bridge between "social" and "medical" in health care.

The provision of social and health services has different purposes and different target groups. Whether it is the elimination of negative social causes, consequences or other links to the disease, as well as the social support of the patient in adapting to the disease and its possible consequences, the training of social skills to ensure co-

operation with the patient's family and a sustainable Quality of life during and after treatment. The health social worker works with his client (patient) on an individual, group and community level. An example of individual social work in healthcare is helping a client with a severe disability, so-called self-help groups are an example of group social work in this area, and prevention and community support activities are part of community social work in healthcare.

Bridges between social work and health interventions also apply in areas and institutions where these professional activities are carried out together. Social work delivery in healthcare has its specificities and we would like to emphasize the need for cross-industry collaboration, particularly with healthcare professionals. This collaborative approach is then present in the professional execution of social work in all relevant areas of healthcare. The need for a specific professionalization and institutionalization of social work in the healthcare system is an important prerequisite for its benefit to society as a whole.

In other years, the importance of bridging social work and health care in anti-epidemiological activities has been emphasized. With the global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, other areas of collaboration between social work and health interventions have been prioritized. These include, for example, clear information transfer, joint planning, implementation of methodical procedures, impact assessment or forecast of further development. The pandemic has taught us the importance of functioning and sustainable cooperation in solving societal problems, based on knowledge and professionalism, interdisciplinarity, mutual respect and a comprehensive and systemic approach. Ensuring the transfer of such good practice examples through the worldwide dissemination of their scientific publications will help to build further bridges of collaboration between social work and healthcare.