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Conference Abstract

Health with and for people: ADAMS solidarity statement on structural developments in health care in the Caras-Severin region

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Abstract

Introduction: With over ten years of experience working in local communities all over Romania, ADAMS [Slatina Timis Mutual Help Association] [in Romanian] has gained great knowledge of community needs and of how best to achieve sustainable development in a structured way, in all areas of health care and community development. We have committed ourselves to contributing to community health needs by implementing health structures that work with and for the people.

Aims: Our experiences show that people are capable and desirous of finding sustainable and timely solutions to health issues. Next to employment and education, health is a fundamental concern.

First, we believe that health care should be accessible and affordable to all – it constitutes a human right and a shared responsibility. Second, people's health needs should determine health policies. Third, local administrations should be assisted in its efforts towards sustainable development. Lastly, community beneficiaries and health providers can work as partners with the local administration and together share responsibility for improving their socio-health situation. Our project aims to support all of these requirements.

Results: Acting upon these beliefs, we have developed two models of socio-healthcare that each offer potential solutions for health sector challenges: Local Health Committees and the Association for Mutual Help. Members of Local Health Committees are interested in health development and in sharing health information with the population. The Association for Mutual Help acts as a juridical structure, working with medical staff and volunteers to provide medical and social services. Both models can be implemented anywhere in Romania, making it possible to achieve significant improvements by working on health in an interdisciplinary way, with the involvement of people, and based on principles of solidarity, mutuality and accessibility.

Both models are based on the solidarity between beneficiaries and are developed and implemented in close relationship with health care providers, institutions (such as the Casa Națională de Asigurări de Sănătate (CNAS)) [National House of Health Insurance] [in English], the Casa Județeană de Asigurări de Sănătate (CJAS) [County House of Health Insurance] [in English], the Direcția de Sănătate Publică (Autoritatea de Sănătate Publică (ASP) [Public Health Authority] [in English,]), local administrations and numerous social organisations.

Conclusions: A health policy plan is designed to maintain and improve the health of the population and to eliminate the differences in access to health care. The models developed by ADAMS have proven to be effective instruments, which can be used by local administrations to develop health policies and to implement them at the community level.

ADAMS aims to share its knowledge and to give full support to Romanian communities as they strive to achieve structural health development. We believe that only together we are strong.

Keywords

health providers, health policies, community health

Presentation slides available from: <http://www.cred.ro/v3/index.php/conferences/131-conference-community-integrated-health-and-social-services.html>