

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Integrated social care for families with multiple and complex problems: 'A Personalised Integrated Care Approach'

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Introduction

Families with multiple and complex problems, such as mental health, parenting, financial or housing problems, often must deal with multiple professionals working at multiple different organizations. In most cases this leads to fragmentation of care (1).

Integrated social care is a possible approach for counteracting fragmentation. Therefore, we aim to elucidate what is known from literature about the facilitators and barriers of integrated social care in families with multiple and complex care at the micro level and meso level.

Methods

We executed a scoping review.

Results

The support of the informal network is separate from the often-fragmented formal network. The large number and sizes of the problems can be overwhelming for professionals. For a systemic family-wide approach, professionals must be able to draw on supervision, consultation and multidisciplinary expertise within teams.

Collaboration should take place in three areas. The family itself, the informal network and with other professionals. The collaboration with this three-way division as facilitators for resilience and empowerment for professionals and ultimately the families itself should be set as a goal (2).

Discussions

Our study highlighted the importance of collaborating and involving or activating the informal and social network, while previous studies have shown that little attention is paid to this in practice (3).

Conclusions

In this study we identified that a multidimensional approach focuses in all life areas is crucial. We found some knowledge on integrated social care for the different life domains of families. Knowledge on interprofessional collaboration between professionals working with families with multiple and complex problems is still lacking.

Lessons learned

- The importance of involving the informal network;

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- Supervision, consultation and multidisciplinary expertise within teams is needed;
- Interprofessional collaboration is needed;
- The large number and sizes of the problems can be overwhelming for professionals.

Limitations

First, there are several descriptions of the target group, such as: multi-problem families, multi-stressed families (5).

Second, we limited our research into integrated social care to the target group of families with multiple and complex problems.

Suggestions for future research

Further research should focus on working from a systemic family-wide approach. Research into organizational conditions for integrated care is also needed, as well as into interprofessional collaboration in families with multiple problems.

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