Abstract:

The thesis is based on the assumption that the shelters are used by people dependent on addictive substances. Asylum houses provide shelter to those in need to improve their quality of life, but do not provide professional assistance to persons dependent on addictive substances. The objective of my work is to analyze the possibilities to apply an addictologist in a shelter for the homeless. I also examined the rules for entry and stay in the facility, typical patterns of drug use, and how employees of the shelter work with people with addictions, or how they cooperate with addictology services.

To the data acquisition were used two methods of a conversation with the staff of the shelter open and half-structured. Another method was participant observation, study of internal rules and informative emails of the shelter. This is a case study of the one particular shelter.

Most users of the shelter show signs of addiction and addictologist would have applied here. Employees are very skeptical to treat addictions of users in the shelter, but addictologist could be applied in other activities that would focus on the needs of this target group. Such as education, motivation and user administration crisis interventions.

The priority of employees in the shelter is the solution of the social situation of homeless people. At the same time there are people who are dependent on the addictive substances and are not motivated to change their risky behavior. Employees are not qualified enough to work with these people. But if anyone is interested to change their risky behavior, they are recommended for assistance in addiction services. I recommend to expand research and focus on users' needs in the shelter and their motivation to change.

Keywords: addiction, shelter, homeless, alcohol, social work