

Abstract

Community mental health teams common in many countries with developed community mental health care have been slowly advancing in recent years. It is expected that this trend will continue to grow with the reform of psychiatric care. The diploma thesis focuses on community mental health teams for the target group of people with severe mental illness, which are one of the basic pillars of mental health care abroad. The theoretical part describes the activities of these teams in the context of community mental health care and also presents these teams mainly in terms of their composition and way of work. The research part analyzes the current situation of four specific teams in terms of multidisciplinary composition and team cooperation, describes and interprets some of the specific difficulties that these services face in the beginning of multidisciplinary teamwork and captures some specific moments of their functioning. Utilizing a qualitative approach through in-depth interviews with team leaders and their founding organizations has enabled them to convey the specific context of these teams and at least partially capture the dynamics of their current state and development. The practical part points to some factors that may complicate the teamwork, such as insufficient involvement of medical staff in team, or possible differences in attitudes among social and health workers. Despite some pitfalls, team leaders keep their enthusiasm and there is an obvious effort in the development of these services. The topic of the work concludes some specific recommendations for the practice of these teams and their founding organizations.

Keywords

community mental health team, community mental health care, multidisciplinary teamwork, team management, people with mental illness, case management, assertive outreach