

Abstract

The presented paper deals with the issue of dual diagnosis from the point of view of community/social psychiatry. The main aim of the paper is to introduce readers to the issues of dual diagnosis and ways how to reach recovery and interpret individual case studies to demonstrate approach of case management in social services of community/social psychiatry, to explore the aetiology and interaction of diseases and to map the internal potential and the external sources of recovery of individual clients.

The main point of the theoretical part is the analysis of integrative treatment approach of dual diagnosis. The theoretical basis is to introduce readers to the existing system of mental health care in the Czech Republic, which currently undergoes the transformation of medical institutional treatment into developing community/social psychiatry. One of the applied approaches of community/social psychiatry is case management that focuses on recovery of clients and their psychosocial rehabilitation. The last chapter of the theoretical part analyses an example of a specific social service in the Belgian city of Ghent, for people with dual diagnosis, which tries to connect together all the aforementioned concepts and use them in the direct care of clients.

The practical basis consists of qualitative analysis of three case studies of the clients of community mental health care. The clients were intentionally selected outside of any kind of addiction service. Data was obtained by a combination of methods of semi-structured interviews and analysis of text documents. The collected data was later analysed and utilized to generate each category of case studies (anamnesis, the role of drugs in the client's life, treatment as a contrast to case management, skills and motivation, external sources of recovery, the client's wishes and goals). Case studies include each step of case management, an analysis of the case and its summary.

For the purpose of the main goals the following research questions were determined: (1) In which ways could drugs effect the progression of mental health disease of the clients in individual case studies? (2) What model of dual diagnosis treatment do the individual case studies represent? (3) What model of case management do the individual case studies represent? (4) Which kind of intervention should be used to improve the health status of the individual client in the individual case studies?

Given the fact that this is a pilot study to survey a sample of only the three specific clients, it is not possible to generalize from the results of this research. The author recommends continued investigation in this field, as there is currently no research of a similar type in community/social psychiatry in the Czech Republic. The reflection of the individual stories can be used as feedback for concrete case managers and as the educational tool for students and their mentors.

Keywords:

Dual diagnosis – integrated treatment – case management – recovery – transformation of psychiatry