

## Abstract

**Background:** Residential treatment in therapeutic community takes place in an "enclosed world" where rules, structure and requirements for clients are used, which can be incomprehensible or confusing for the "outside" person. As a result, parents or relatives of clients may experience different concerns about the treatment, confront ambiguities, but may also be in captivity of various myths and half-truths about addictions and the treatment of dependents.

**Aim:** The aim of the research is to map out topics and issues related to the treatment of addiction in therapeutic community, which parents and other close persons of clients usually deal with during the treatment. In addition, I try to find out awareness of family members and comprehensibility of the treatment process in TC.

**Methods:**

For the research, a qualitative approach was used in the form of focus groups and semi-structured interviews with family members of TC WHITE LIGHT I clients. Data collection took place during 11 / 2016-03 / 2017 during parental weekends in TC WL I. For the data analysis, the method of clustering was used.

**Results:** Data analysis revealed seven main topics that respondents most frequently addressed during treatment. These include: the future, returning back home, after-care, course of treatment / abstinence management, communication between the client and the family, substance abuse in the presence of the client and social work with clients. Most parents are well informed about the treatment. Incomprehensible in treatment seems to be the whole treatment process for some, the other topics mentioned were phases, group functions and rules.

**Conclusion:** The topics that emerged from the analysis were mentioned most frequently. The main recommendation that emerges from the presented findings is that TC WHITE LIGHT I could consider to write the topics down and publicate them for example on the web. Answers to questions that clients' family members or other close relatives can handle should be processed as simple and comprehensible as possible. Research findings can serve as a feedback to TC WHITE LIGHT I, to improve the work with family.

**Key words:** therapeutic community-family therapy- addiction treatment-parents-clients