

From: Göran Henriksson [goran.e.henriksson@telia.com]

Sent: mercredi 17 mai 2006 10:54

To: Marie Louise Bloch Poulsen-Hansen, MPH

Cc: Chris White; Johan Jonsson

Subject: SV: EUREGHA - Regional and Local Influence in EU Mental Health Policy - give your input

Dear Asger Andreasen,

Thankyou for the opportunity to give input to the Commission Green Paper "Improving the mental health of the population:Towards a strategy on mental health for the European Union". It is the opinion of Region Västra Götaland that the mental health of the European population will be a crucial part of a successful sustainable development and growth.

The initiative from the Commission to the Green Paper as a response to the invitation from the 2005 WHO European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health, in order to launch a debate among members and European actors in the field of Mental Health is welcomed.

However, the suggested and outlined strategy is lacking an adequate regional perspective and this will jeopardise the good intentions described. Since in many member states the responsibility for planning and management of Mental health service as well as preventive and promotive initiatives is in the hands of the regional and local level authorities it is crucial that a subnational perspective is reflected in the developing strategy. The Green Paper is focused on the interface between the national level and the Community visavi the Institutions, "health professionals, stakeholders in other sectors, civil society including patient organisations, and the research community..." but not the regional and local levels. That is a potential pitfall. The regions in collaboration with the local level has important knowledge and knowhow for the planning and influencing on mental health determinants.

Therefore the EUREGHA initiative is important and might play a role in strengthen the regional perspective in this process.

As the theme for the Thematic meeting is section 6.3 on information and knowledge, we strongly agree with mr Ljungberg that the regional level is adequate for developing epidemiological aspects on information systems on mental health. It is important that information and indicators reflect the inequalities there are in mental health between member states but also within member states. Otherwise information systems will lack the power needed for decision makers to know whether interventions and initiatives will reach the most vulnerable groups in the Community.

For this reason an information system on mental health in Europe should comprise relevant indicators which reflect the distribution and variation of mental health determinants within populations and involve regional and local authorities in collaboration with the research communities, the latter as mr Ljungberg states, already has links to regional level.

Best regards,

Dr Göran Henriksson
Public Health Committee

Region Västra Götaland
SE 451 44 Mariestad
Sweden

tel +46 709 948543

goran.henriksson@vgregion.se

Från: Chris White [mailto:c.white@nwhbo.org]

Skickat: den 11 maj 2006 12:34

Till: Undisclosed Recipients

Ämne: EUREGHA - Regional and Local Influence in EU Mental Health Policy - give your input

Regional and Local Influence in EU Mental Health Policy - give your input

The European Regional and Local Health Authorities Platform (EUREGHA) has nominated an expert to sit in the European Commission's Working Group on Mental Health. Mr. Lars-Olof Ljungberg aims to represent all regional and local authorities that have responsibilities on health care.

EUREGHA is not an observer but an actual participant in the meetings and the regional and local opinions regarding mental health *are* heard. In many EU countries the regional and local authorities have the responsibility for health care. Our voices should be heard early in the decision-making process.

We therefore urge any interested regional and local authorities to send us their opinions regarding the Commission Green Paper on Mental Health to EUREGHA, so that our expert can pass on regional and local views to the Commission. We would also like to make a EUREGHA contribution to the Open Consultation which ends May 31st. Please send us your opinions regarding the mental health strategy by May 16, 2006 to:

Input for the next meeting

The next Thematic Meeting on the Green Paper will be held in Luxemburg on May 18 and 19, 2006. The theme will be section 6.3 in the Green Paper "Improving information and knowledge on mental health in EU".

Mr. Lars-Olof Ljungberg says in the attached report:

"My planned input from a regional and local perspective to that meeting is that there are quite often a lot of information available in regions around mental health services (beds, costs, staff, visits to out-patient clinic, involuntary admissions etc). Unfortunately these data are collected in different ways in different countries which akes comparison difficult or impossible. There are some data on mental ill health (epidemiology, incidence, prevalence) but substantially less on mental health. There needs to be developed and agreed upon indicators on mental health that could be used across Europe.

The regional level is adequate for this task since it has the capacity to do this, and also has the necessary links to academic institutions. I appreciate any comments on this report and suggestions for the upcoming Thematic Meeting".

Please feel free to forward this mail to any relevant local and regional authorities.

Best regards

Asger Andreasen

Chair of the EUREGHA Consultative Group

EUREGHA (EUropean REgional and local Health Authorities platform) is an administrative regional and local network on health issues with no formal or political mandate. The EUREGHA network aims to be a representative platform for all interested regional and local authorities or their organisations, provided that these authorities/organisations have responsibilities within the health area or in other areas related to health issues.

If you wish to join the EUREGHA mailinglist please send a mail to c.white@nwhbo.org

This paper represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumer Protection DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.