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Steering Group Meeting 4
FACT FOR MINORS

„Fostering Alternative Care for Troubled Minors“

CJD Hamburg

***** Brussels, June 26, 2018*****



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Overview

1. Review of project activities: Needs assessment and capacity-building
2. Challenges and strengths of implementing the new approach
3. Dissemination activities
4. Ways ahead and remaining questions



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1 . Review of project activities - Needs Assessment

- **13 individual interviews**

Child and youth welfare services, youth court support services, youth probation services, child and youth psychiatry, youth correctional facility, ministry of health, academia

- **1 focus groups**

Operational level



- **Identification of intervention models: Hamburg, Elmshorn**

Participation in network meetings and case management meetings





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1 . Review of Project Activities - Capacity Building

4 meetings of national advisory board

Youth probation services, youth court services

Youth correctional facility

Family Intervention Team

City Agency for Alternative Care, Ministry for Labor, Family and Social Affairs and Integration – Policy division on youth delinquency and offender support services

Forensic unit of psychiatric hospital

3 Capacity-Building workshops

- 3 Meetings of 3 hours each (October-December 2017)
- **2 case discussions** prepared and presented by Family Intervention Team and child and youth psychiatry of Children Hospital Wilhelmstift
- **Evaluation** of workshop series

- **Participating agencies:** youth social services, youth court and probation services, juvenile justice, mental health services, child and youth psychiatry, school administration
- **Professional qualifications:** social workers (with therapeutic qualification), psychologists, probation officers, criminologists.



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2. Challenges and Strengths of Implementing the New Approach

CHALLENGE	BUT...
Ambitious geographical scope: city-wide focus	Target group and multi-agency cooperation as policy priority in Hamburg
Skepticism of inventing „parallel structures“ by an EU project	Acknowledgement of benefits of an external and „neutral“ coordinator and acknowledge of EU phenomenon
Securing „buy in“ from operational and management level	Benefit of installing a National Advisory Board
Involvement of psychologists, psychiatrists, medical staff	Commitment of children and adolescent psychiatric unit of children hospital



2. Challenges and strengths of implementing the new approach

CHALLENGE	BUT...
Development of capacity-building methodology	Co-operative efforts between project coordinators and National Advisory Board
Professional confidentiality	All cases discussed in workshops were anonymized
Fluctuation in the group constellation	Remained an obstacle to trust building
Conviction and belief in the process	Was built over time – through face-to-face contacts
Next steps after end of project...	Sustainability falls into responsibility of political decision makers

Strengths of the intervention model

Evaluation of workshops

Two corresponding streams of capacity-building: **systemic** and **client-centered focus**

Mix between **plenary** and **group sessions** to diversify communication patterns

Group process allowed for the introduction of new perspectives and **alleviation of the burden** of individual decision-making

Nuanced and **diverse composition** of group of participants

Initiation, planning and coordination by a **neutral and independent party**: professional competencies were clearly with the participants

3 hours workshops provided **TIME**

Support and **communication flow** between capacity-building meetings

Introduction of **innovative approaches** e.g. „key worker“ and „mentalizing“

Only parts of the group were **familiar with the cases**: productive outside perspectives

Room for „**creative thinking**“ without pressure to produce decisions



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5. Elements of successful cooperation

- Delinquent youth with mental health issues need *client-centered approaches*
- Need for sense of *shared responsibility* to alleviate the burden
- *Mutual understanding* of case dynamics
- Space for exchange *at eye level* without immediate *pressure of decision making* – cooperation not only in *moments of crisis*
- Acknowledgement of networking as *working time* – financial reimbursement
- *Institutionalization of multiprofessional teams* of social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists
- *Education*: target group needs well trained staff – countering fluctuation
- Foster systemic knowledge → *Hospitation*
- Cooperation alone is not sufficient without *subsequent services and after care*
- Cooperation needs to be integrated on a management level – **commitment!**
- Empirical research and *evaluation*



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3. Dissemination Activities

- ❖ **January 31, 2018:** Annual Health Policy New Year's Reception New at child and youth psychiatric hospital on target group (Wilhelmstift)
- ❖ **March 2, 2018:** Joint meeting of National Advisory Board and workshop participants to discuss outcome and follow-up of capacity building
- ❖ **April 12, 2018:** Project presentation at inter-agency advisory board of the City of Hamburg for „Measures against Youth Violence“
- ❖ **April 19, 2018:** Networking event with several intervention models in Northern Germany



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3. Dissemination Activities

- ❖ **June 6, 2018:** Publication of academic article: Young, delinquent and mentally challenged: a multi-agency approach to coordination and service provision, in: Journal for Juvenile Law and Youth Social Services (Zeitschrift für Jugendstrafrecht und Jugendhilfe, ZJJ 2/2018)
- ❖ **June 19, 2018:** Introductory presentation at „work-party“ at Wilhelmstift
- ❖ **June 21, 2018:** Project presentation at symposium of IUBH (Internationale Hochschule Duales Studium) entitled „Beyond the Order? Challenges in providing care for youth between the systems of juvenile justice, psychiatry and youth welfare services“



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4. Ways ahead and remaining questions

- How do we initiative and promote cooperative processes as introduced in the workshop series in a large city with its existing routines?
- Cooperation agreements – need for more formalized structures beyond individual contacts
 - => Cooperation agreements are currently under review
- In the course of a project workshop its leadership is clearly defined. The initiative and structure lies with the project coordinator – what happens afterwards?
- Policy level needs to designate financial resources to foster sustainability of multi-agency cooperation
- Hamburg „concept for troubled minors“: installation of interdisciplinary case teams, cooperation between youth welfare and child and adolescent psychiatry



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Thank you for your attention!