

Inerdisciplinary Organisation of help and prevention for children with mental handicap

With the financial support of the Department of Social Services in federal state of Sachsen in a greater municipality (Meissen) a network between youth assistance, school, medicine and child- and adolescent psychiatry & psychotherapy was established. The concept was based on the results of the former project sponsored by the German Ministry of Health in the federal state of Sachsen-Anhalt (Magdeburg, 2000) to coordinate planing for parents and their children with mental and developmental disorders looking for help. The project was based onthe conviction that reliable, highly structured and binding cooperation can improve the advancement of mental health and prevent or reduce mental handicap. Relevant factors of psychological stress mean above all experiencing social exclusion, ongoing peer reaction and insufficient capability in school and leaves the children or adolescents unable to fully participate in society. Therefore it will be necessary to support a holistic approach to promote the mental health of children an adolescents with special handicap. Furthermore, the project could give evidence that it is crucial that parents and guardians be involved. The conceptualisation of this project was established in 2006. It is planned to transfer this kind of network founded on the agreement of shared, mutually intelligible, and binding foci, procedures, and means of evaluation.

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