



Newsletter November 2007

Dear members,

The Conference in Potsdam, Germany, on the 21st and 22nd September (Cerebral Palsies in Adolescents and Adulthood) was very inspiring. So was our General Meeting, although with few members present.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Roger Banks as a new Board member and Dr. Peter Martin as re-elected member of the Board.

In Zagreb (October 11th – 13th) we met the new president of the European Association Mental Health in Intellectual Disability.

In Prague, November 15 and 16, we made contacts with Inclusion Europe and the European Union.

General Meeting of MAMH

At the general meeting we made new plans for the year to come. Firstly we decided to reconsider the goals of MAMH, and then to develop a strategic plan for how to meet these in 2008 and beyond.

The working group Educational Training for Doctors in Intellectual Disability Medicine does need re-animation; Peter Martin will develop new activities to bring progress into this subject.

European Conference on Cerebral Palsies in Adolescence and Adulthood. Potsdam-Germany. September 2007, 21st and 22nd

This conference was very well organised by the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft „Ärzte für Menschen mit Geistiger oder Mehrfacher Behinderung“ (BAG). We thank the board of the BAG, president Dr. Verona Mau and colleagues, and also our member of the Board Dr. Peter Martin for this fantastic conference with high quality presentations and workshops. For the text of the presentations please see our website www.mamh.net (latest news).

The **questionnaire on treatment of cerebral palsy in adolescents and adults in European countries** gave the following impression:

In children:

Multidisciplinary approach towards all children with CP, starting at the age of one year or earlier.

Good relations with education. Normal schools if possible, often with specialist support when needed.

Regular controls to offer them the best support, including therapies and adaptations

In adolescents and adults:

All treatments are available, but more dependent on own initiative and on the interest and knowledge of general practitioners and specialists. Coordination is not guaranteed.

Preference: there should be regular attention to the medical, psychological and social aspects in adolescents and adults with cp.

Promising concepts:

Rehabilitation centres for adolescents and adults with a personal coordinator (Norway).

Transition policlinic, living room design, a meeting point for persons with CP, not only for meeting their medical needs but also for social aspects (The Netherlands).
Young Adult Teams (UK).

European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability.

The EAMHID is a European and interdisciplinary organisation that promotes research and exchange of knowledge on all mental health related issues for people with intellectual disability (www.mhid.org). At this year's conference in Zagreb, Patty van Belle-Kusse (The Netherlands) was elected as president. She succeeded Prof. Dr. Michael Seidel (Germany).

Switzerland!!

Doctors in Switzerland have established an organisation: Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft von Ärzten für Menschen mit Geistiger Behinderung (The Swiss working group of physicians for people with intellectual disability). Their first president is psychiatrist Dr. Felix Brem.

On behalf of the board we have congratulated our Swiss colleagues and informed them about the work of MAMH. Dr. Brem promised to discuss cooperation with MAMH within their organisation and forward information about MAMH to their members.

Conference on Deinstitutionalisation and Community Living - comparative perspectives and international implications. Prague, November 15th -16th.

The conference marked the launch of the report from the EU funded project on Comparative Cost Analysis: Community based alternatives to Institutional Care and has focussed in particular on the implications of their findings for Central and Eastern European countries.

This European study was an initiative of a consortium of university research groups from different countries, service user and service provider organizations. Frans Scholte took the opportunity to focus attention on the shortcomings in the

medical and the mental health care for people with intellectual disabilities and also to make some interesting contacts. Among these with Mrs. Wallis Goelen, who is, within the Directorate-General Employment, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission, Head of the Unit responsible for integration policies concerning people with disabilities. She agreed to a meeting with us in the beginning of next year to talk about disparities in adequate medical and mental health care for people with intellectual disabilities. We will try to have this meeting together with the board of the European Association Mental Health in Intellectual Disabilities.

We send you every good wish for the coming season and the New Year.

Frans Scholte, president,
Frans.Scholte@mamh.net

Peter Martin, secretary
Peter.Martin@mamh.net

Administration
Frieda de Meij
administration@mamh.net

Website: www.mamh.net