



February 2008



Conference News

The II International Conference on Community Psychology “Building Participative, Empowering & Diverse Communities - Visioning Community Psychology in a worldwide perspective” will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from the 4th to the 6th of June 2008. On the 2nd and 3rd June 2008 a variety of Institutes will deal with specific topics of intervention, i.e. promotion of well-being and recovery for persons with mental illness. For more details log onto www.2iccp.com

News from Hafal about Mental Health Legislation in Wales

The possibility of Wales getting its own legislation on mental health has moved a decisive step closer with the tabling by the National Assembly's Shadow Health Minister of a draft Legislative Competence Order seeking new powers from Westminster.

Jonathan Morgan AM is the first backbench politician to make an attempt to get powers devolved from the UK Government to the Senedd. Mr Morgan's draft LCO seeks to enshrine new rights to earlier assessment and treatment for Welsh mental health patients. Also included in the LCO is the right for all mental health patients to receive independent advocacy.

Mr Morgan said that evidence he had received from Welsh mental health groups, including Hafal, had convinced him of the need to provide a legal right for people experiencing mental illness to be assessed and treated at an early stage. Hafal, EUFAMI's member association in Wales, has worked closely with Mr Morgan on the drafting of the LCO.

Early news on World Mental Health Day 2008

The theme of the 2008 World Mental Health Day will be ‘*Advocacy for Global Mental Health: Scaling Up Services through Citizen Advocacy and Action*’. It has been selected, in part, to mobilise the hundreds of grassroots mental health organisations that participate in World Mental Health Day to plan and carry out awareness and advocacy events in their own communities and countries. For more information: the World Federation for Mental Health website, <http://www.wfmh.org/>

Te Gek? project

The ‘*Te Gek?*’ (‘*Too Mad?*’) project is an initiative from the Sint-Annendael hospital in Diest (Belgium) aiming at promoting positive mental health. It has gathered famous Flemish artists who are dedicated to changing the image of mental health in Belgium. From 12th January to 5th April 2008 a series of concerts will take place all over Flanders in order to raise the public awareness about positive mental health and prejudices around mental illness. For more information, visit the website http://www.sad.be/SAD_TE_GEK/index.php

New publication

A new book entitled ‘*Families as Partners in Mental Health Care: A Guidebook for Implementing Family Work*’ has just arrived into our office. It is published by the World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders and for more information you can log onto their website www.world-schizophrenia.org

Mental Health Conference – Brussels 13th June 2008

A series of preparatory meetings is taking place in Luxembourg from the 26th to the 29th February to make preparations for the forthcoming major conference on Mental Health, hosted by the EU Commission and due to take place in Brussels on the 13th June. EUFAMI is being represented at these preparatory meetings by its President, Inger Nilsson.

Meeting of the European Collaborating Centres (CCs) for the WHO Mental Health Programme

A meeting took place in Utrecht, the Netherlands from the 20th to the 22nd February of WHO's European CCs to review progress to date on work related to the Helsinki Declaration, discuss new ways of going forward and agree a plan of joint action for the coming years. EUFAMI was one of a small group of NGOs who attended the meeting and actively participated in the proceedings and took the opportunity to provide all participants with the views and suggestions of families and carers. Inger Nilsson and Kevin Jones, Secretary General, represented EUFAMI and the meeting also presented a valuable opportunity to make new contacts and to network.

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For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

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