



DET KONGELIGE
HELSE- OG OMSORGSDEPARTEMENT

The Royal Ministry of Health and Care Services

Peer Counselling in Norway

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Peer Counselling - who

1) Peer:

- Persons who are equal of another in certain aspects:
- Reduced functional abilities
- Having the same illness, suffered the same injury or having the same type of reduced functions

2) Peer:

- Persons having a close relative as described over – most often: parents

Parent to parent networks – what do we have

1. Formal/democratic organisations of and for persons with disabilities. These main associations receive state grants.
2. Associations which also are part of the type of organisations/ associations mentioned above– more “specialized”
3. Private initiatives, (no public funding)
 1. for example: mothers in the same school district
 2. semi commercial - producing and/or selling help-yourself products based on own experience

Formal and democratic organisations

Entitled to a state grant if

- Meet requirements put up by the government:
 - Meet requirements to membership, activities and management
 - Have units and activities throughout the country
 - At least 250 members

In 2006: 119 organisations

Formal/democratic organisations – an example

NFU – Norwegian Association of and for Persons with Developmental Disabilities:

- Persons with developmental disabilities
- Parents and other relatives to developmental disabled persons – all ages
- Established in 1967
- 7 400 members

Organisations which are part larger associations

- Specialized member associations receive part of the state grant given to the main organisation
- Example: *The Norwegian Association for Spinal Injury* is a one of 11 specialized associations of *The Norwegian Association of Disabled* www.nhf.no
- Organized based on
 - A specific diagnosis
 - A specific diagnosis and age, for instance: young persons with CP
 - Parents of children with a specific diagnosis or including a wider range of disabilities

Informal local groups and private initiatives commercial

- Mostly aimed at improving local conditions
- May be without financial support
- May find financial resources to their activities from a wide range of resources
- Some have income from their activities/production
- Mostly referred to channel their interests through formal organisations

Umbrella organisations

- **Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People (FFO)** - Co-operative body of disabled peoples organisations
www.ffo.no
 - founded in 1950
 - 67 member organisations with a total of 300 000 members
- **Forum of Co-operation - SAFO**
 - 4 organisations with a total of about 35 000 members

Management of state grant

- Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion
- Managed by the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs
- Apply each year, enclose
 - articles/regulations of the organisation
 - approved account from last year
 - activity report from last year

State grant – calculation of amount

1. Basic amount – the same for all organisations
2. Amount related to number of members
3. Amount based on estimate of level of need for assistance among the members

State grant – peer counselling

- Additional state grant for the same organisations as mentioned above
- Established to stimulate specified peer counselling activities
- Organisations have to apply specifically
- Organisations have to document their peer counselling activities
- 2006: 104 organisations received this additional grant

Co-operation and dialogue – main arenas

- The umbrella organisation have contact forum with the government to present their demands to the next budget
- Representatives from the organisations constitute advisory boards to hospitals and to municipalities
- The government have dialogue with the organisations early in the work process of their documents (Green and White papers, etc)
- The organisations are on the list at formal hearings (law proposals etc)
- The organisations meet the committees of the national assembly (Stortinget)

Action Plans

- Council of Europe Action Plan – a practical tool
- Mainstreaming increases the necessity to have an overarching policy framework
- Experienced in Norway:
 - Instrument to establish national values
 - Instrument for obtaining concrete goals
 - Creating common ground for further processes

Today in Norway: Action Plans, etc...

- State Council on Disability- Advisory body for the Ministries. The organisations have 5 of the 13 members of the council www.srff.no
- National Documentation Centre (2005) www.dok.no
 - Vision: Knowledge shows the way
 - Aim: to provide public authorities with an improved information-basis for their decision making process
- Plan of Action for Accessibility
- Strategy for children with disabilities and their families