

International news and information

6TH EUSARF CONGRESS

*(European Scientific Association for Residential
and Foster Care for Children and Adolescents)*

Residential and foster care

new approaches, new practices
23- 26 September 1998
Paris

Conference Secretariat

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EUSARF was founded in 1989 as an association of European scholars who are active in the field of residential care, foster care and their alternatives. It facilitates the exchange of information and reflection on empirical and theoretical research in these domains.

EUSARF is also concerned with bringing together professionals. Previous congresses, in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Great Britain have shown the importance of bringing to a large audience research and innovations in the field of residential and foster care. What is more, in seminars in France and Spain researchers have been given the opportunity of meeting and of discussing theoretical and methodological questions.

The last two congresses by EUSARF concerned the development of family preservation programs. This time it seems to be advisable to focus with more precision on current innovations in residential and foster care. Over recent years innovating projects in these domains have developed in different European countries : more elaborate procedures of admission and return to the family, new modalities of working with parents, arrangements accompanying a greater professionalization of family care, development of 'systemic' methods, work with an integrated ecological perspective, etc. In order to evaluate these practices, research projects are trying to examine what is at stake, their conditions of implementation and the effects.

Such projects help to build relationships between researchers and professionals they contribute to a more fundamental approach that aims at analyzing and explaining for instance: the processes of socialization, the mechanisms of social reproduction and inter-generational transmission, the processes of attachment and of the creation of bonds in the womb of the family, the consequences of deficiencies and separations for the child's development, etc.

At this congress, researchers from Europe and North-America of various disciplines will present their work and professionals will demonstrate the innovations that are taking place in practice. In this way both will be able to examine and develop their existing knowledge.

CONGRESS THEMES

What approaches, in practice as well as research, are being developed in the field of residential and foster care?

Starting from this question, the congress

organization has selected a few central themes, which should not exclude other subjects :

- new arrangements of care, new intervention practices;
- new modalities of working with parents;
- follow-up of those in care with regard to school progress, health and well-being;
- qualitative evaluation of placement outcomes,
- the question of 'difficult' adolescents;
- taking care of children from immigrant communities;
- taking account of the expanded social network.

ERRATUM

At pag 113 of Volume 2, number 2 of the *International Journal of Child & Family Welfare* the name of Dorothy Ansell, M.S.W., was unintentionally left out of the author string of the article 'Assessing life skills of adolescents in out-of-home care.

The precise reference of the article should be:

Kimberly A. Nollan, Ph.D., Peter J. Pecora, Ph.D., A. Chris Downs, Ph.D., Merrily Wolf, B.S.W., Michael Horn, M.S.W., Layng Martine, B.A., Elena Lamont & Dorothy Ansell, M.S.W. (1997). Assessing life skills of adolescents in out-of-home care. *International Journal of Child & Family Welfare*, 2, 113-126.