



Who works on Global Mental Health in Denmark? - An exploratory stakeholder seminar

Time: 21 October 2015 from 9.30 to 17.00.

Venue: Center for Sundhed og Samfund (CSS), Room 35.01.06
University of Copenhagen, Øster Farimagsgade 5, Copenhagen

The University of Copenhagen's School of Global Health has the pleasure to invite you to the one-day seminar: "Who works on Global Mental Health in Denmark - an exploratory stakeholder seminar" which will take place on 21 October 2015 at Center for Sundhed og Samfund (CSS).

Background

Previously under-funded and overlooked, the concept of Global Mental Health has recently been prioritized as a sub-theme in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. While this increased attention at the political level is indeed timely, much is lacking in terms of concrete policies, action plans and resources. Global Mental Health can be fairly labeled a neglected health topic. Already in 2001, Gro Harlem Brundtland, then Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the WHO Report 2001 predicted that "within the next 20 years, depression will have the dubious distinction of becoming the second cause of the global disease burden".

Today, WHO estimates that mental and substance use disorders directly account for around 7% of the global disease burden. Conditions that bring grave implications on the quality of life for the affected and their surroundings as well as posing serious challenges to already strained health care systems. In low- and middle-income countries mental health is oftentimes exacerbated or triggered by already stressful and challenging life-situations, which can be due to poverty, physical health issues and sometimes in the wake of disasters, making prevention and response highly complex and multifaceted.

Why this seminar?

While focus and resources remain scarce for mental health in the international development agenda, international or transnational coordinated efforts are even scarcer. The objective is to kick-start the debate on this lack of response and to hopefully gather concrete tools for advancing the agenda. As part of this exercise we will map stakeholders in Denmark - NGOs, policy makers, academics, journalists, health professionals, students and others - with a Global Mental Health focus as (part of) their agenda. In doing so, we hope to provide a starting point for strengthening and establishing new avenues of collaboration and move forward in increasing awareness about the topic in Denmark and beyond.

If you would like to attend this seminar, we kindly ask you to register **before 12 October 2015** by sending an email to cher@sund.ku.dk with your name, the institution you represent and note which workshop you would like to attend: "Mental Health Promotion", "Prevention" or "Treatment".



Programme

- 09.30 - 09.55 **Welcome and Introduction**
by Ib C. Bygbjerg, Professor, MD, DSCiMed, Head of Studies and Course Leader at the Copenhagen School of Global Health.
- 09.55 - 10.20 **Mental Health in Ethiopia - Building Capacity**
by Markos Tesfaye, Consultant Psychiatrist, Jimma University Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia.
- 10.20 - 10.45 **Social Determinants of Mental Health**
by Jane Brandt Sørensen, Ph.D. student, Section of Global Health, University of Copenhagen.
- 10.45 - 11.00 **Q&A**
- 11.00 - 11.15 **Break**
- 11.15 - 11.40 **Advocating for Mental Health & Influencing Policy**
by Knud Kristensen, President of Landsforeningen SIND
- 11.40 - 12.05 **A Global Perspective on Mental Health - From Burden to Empowerment**
by Jens Peter Eckardt, Chief Analyst at Bedre Psykiatri
- 12.05 - 12.30 **Q&A**
- 12.30 - 13.30 **Lunch**
- 13.30 - 14.45 **Workshop**
 - Health Promotion
 - Prevention
 - Treatment
- 14.45 - 15.00 **Break**
- 15.00 - 16.00 **Plenary Session**
Discussion of workshop content, what we learned today and concrete ideas of action.
- 16.00 - 17.00 **Reception hosted by University of Copenhagen's School of Global Health**



Map of CSS (Center for Sundhed og Samfund)

The seminar will take place in room 35.01.06 at CSS, Øster Farimagsgade 5, 1353 Copenhagen K

