

”How do we create legitimacy for health care system care providers offering alternative treatments?”



The project in the Municipality of Nordanstig, Sweden

In the municipality of Nordanstig we see various possibilities for implementing alternative treatment where animals are used as a tool in preventing social exclusion, institutional social care, and long term sick leave in a meaningful way.

Target groups for our project

1. Social emotional learning
2. Preventing long term sick leave
3. Physical and/or mental disability



High quality standards and codes of ethics

for animals that are being used as tools in alternative treatments within social care and healthcare.

In our work we are seeking a high level of quality where standards and codes of ethics for animal assisted therapy and counseling are important!

There is a wide range of perspectives and different methods that are being used in this field if we look at an international level.

In Sweden there is a lack of experience when compared internationally. Some research with very good results has been presented, and that has led to a more open minded approach to animal assisted activities and animal assisted therapy.

The goal is now to set focus on how animal assisted activities and counseling can help preventing social and cultural exclusion, assist in high quality results of rehabilitation and social and emotional learning.

We need to go forward in this field:

- To set standards for models and methods on a national and international level, to create legitimacy for alternative treatments within social care and health-care, and to strive for evidence based methods within this area.
- Raising the professional level of facilitators. To build up the education system so it meets the set quality indicators and codes of ethics for using animals as a tool in social care and healthcare.



Lecturers at the conference

Margareta Håkanson

"Margareta Hakanson worked with Equine Assisted Therapy for patients, grown ups and children, suffering from back pain or neurological disorders as well as psychiatric disorders in her clinical work as a physiotherapist. On behalf of the national Board of Agriculture she has also been involved in the development of codes of ethics, certification requirements and quality indicators for professionals and companies responsible for treatment with Equine Assisted Therapy and Activities(EAT/A) in Sweden."

Mari Louhi-Lehtiö

M.Sc., licensed teacher, certified Work Counselor-Supervisor and Coach specialized in group processes, certified riding instructor, Epona Approved Instructor, EAGALA Level 1. Mari's career started in biosciences and research, and continued specializing in learning - alternative education methods, experiential social emotional learning. Mari is currently also in psychotherapy training. She has 20 years of experience in various fields of education, coaching, training and work counseling. Mari's speciality is animal assisted experiential social emotional learning and therapy. Mari and Savikko team also run one- and two-year- facilitator training programs for professionals in AASEL® (Animal Assisted Social Emotional Learning), EASEL® (Equine Assisted SEL) and towards SELCoach™ certification. She also lectures on ethical horsemanship and trains pedagogic approach to teaching classical riding (HorseTalk®-pedagogy). She lectures yearly about EASEL® and Ethical Horsemanship e.g. in Mid-Sweden University at Östersund, Sweden, to Swedish psychosocial riding therapist students. Mari was an invited consultant to EFMHA's ethics committee 2004-2005 and since a member of its standards committee developing code of ethics and standards for equine facilitated psychotherapy.

Psychiatric clinic in Skellefteå, Lena Stenvall and Marica Ljungholm

Presents the experience from the work that they do within the frame work of Passagen, psychiatric clinic from Skellefteå. Since 1998 they have offered Equine- assisted therapy for the caretakers that is offered service from the psychiatric care. In their work they use horses in treatment of patients with mental impairments. Mental health affects us on a variety of areas and with the help of the horses we can identify strengths and weaknesses that the caretaker experience with the help of Equine- assisted therapy. And it gives us, as the care provider, help to see what we can focus on in helping the individual in personal growth and building self-esteem, it also gives us as a care provider input in what type of focus we can have in further treatment to strengthen the individuals own the resources. Lena Stenvall and Marica Ljungholm will give us their perspectives of their work and the methodology that they have developed out of experience with their caretakers over the years since 1998.



Evert Vedung

Evert Vedung is emeritus professor of political science at Uppsala University. At the conference he will enlighten us in Evidence-based Social Work and Its Alternatives Evidence-based social work is an idea that was imported to Sweden and Scandinavia around 1995 and gained ground from around 2000 and onwards.

Evert Vedung will provide an overview of the major ideas in this movement. For contrast, he will compare the evidence-based movement with two other strong earlier movements that still linger on: New Public Management and the dialogue-oriented movement.

His publications include:

1. Evaluation Research in Handbook of Public Policy, B Guy Peters & Jon Pierre, eds. 2006.
2. Public Policy and Program Evaluation, London: Transaction, 2000.
3. Utvärdering i politik och förvaltning, 3e rev uppl., Lund: Studentlitteratur

Ingeborg Höök

Ingeborg Höök is registered nurse, specialized in psychiatry and with an MA in Caring Sciences. She has a long experience in working with care dogs (therapy dogs) and has been manager of units in care of the elderly, in psychiatry and in a drug abuse institution.

Ingeborg is the only one in Sweden to have a license from Delta Society in USA for work as instructor with care dogs. She is presently in charge of the education for care dogs at Vårdhundskolan (www.vardhundskolan.se).

In her lecture, she will a.o. describe how care dogs assist physiotherapists and occupational therapists in their regular work.



Program

Agenda 11 of November

morning session

- 09:30 Registration and coffee.
- 10:00 Opening of the conference.
- 10:30 The development of the green care sector and entrepreneurs within the healthcare sector.
- 11:30 Project in Nordanstig – ours aims and goals, Carina Nilsson.
- 12:30 LUNCH

afternoon session

- 14:00 High quality standards and codes of ethics for animal assisted work. Mari Louhi- Lehtiö.
- 15:00 Coffee
- 15:30 Care dogs within the health care sector, national and international perspective, Ingeborg Höök.
- 16:30 Conclusions.
- 17:30 Networking, snacks and cocktail in the lounge.

- 19:30 Dinner and entertainment in the restaurant.

Agenda 12 of November

morning session

- 09:00 Evidence-based Social Work and Its Alternatives, Evert Vedung.
- 10:00 Coffee
- 10:30 Equine- assisted therapy for the caretakers within psychiatric care, Lena Stenvall.
- 11:30 Presentation and demonstration of AAA and AAT, Kyno- Logisch.
- 12:30 LUNCH

afternoon session

- 13:30 To set standards for models and methods on a national and international level. Margareta Hakanson.
- 14:30 Coffee
- 15:30 Raising the professional level of facilitators.
- 16:30 Conclusions.

The conference will be in English and has a limited amount of participants of 100 persons.

The conference will be available for streaming, please contact: ronny.spangberg@hutb.se for further details.

International conference 11-12 november 2009

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For further information please contact:

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