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Summaries of the Main Articles

Partnership: The practice and its meaning in youth work

Shachar Timor-Shlevin¹

Partnership between professionals and youth is often presented as an instrument for ensuring the implementation of decisions regarding young people's lives. In this context partnership is usually short-term and narrow in scope. However, current developments in the field call for practicing partnership as part of long-term relationships between professionals and youth. Yet the actual practice of partnership in the context of long-term relationships and its implications are still overlooked. This article aims to bridge this gap by examining the meaning of partnership for professionals and service-users in a community youth center for marginalized youth. The study was conducted using multiple methods, including focus groups, participant observations and interviews. Data was analyzed using principles of grounded theory. Our findings articulate partnership as an on-going therapeutic experience, combining both structural-technical and content-experiential components. These components exist simultaneously in the realm of decision-making and that of relationship and self-development experiences. In addition, partnership is presented as a hierarchy-challenging relationship. The findings are discussed in light of the relationship between both realms. Specific characteristics of shared decision-making – atmosphere, content and duration – are presented as crucial in the creation of partnership-based practice, both in adjusting policy regarding decision-making processes and in youth work.

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Work injuries – Legal causation versus medical causation

Ammie Wolf¹

This study was designed to test the degree of influence wielded by the expert opinion of medical consultant-specialists appointed by the court, on judges' decisions regarding the existence or lack thereof of causation between a medical impairment and the job. This is the first research of its kind that has been conducted in Israel to examine this question.

A work-injury is an accident or an occupational disease that occurs during and due to work, and entitles the injured to various pensions. The existence of causation between a medical impairment and the job is one of the components that the insured has to prove in order for his/her injury to be recognized as a work-injury. It is one of the main bones of contention between the plaintiff and the National Insurance Institute, and a key question put before the Labor Court while discussing claims of this type.

For a decision as to the existence of a causal connection between a medical impairment and the job, the court frequently calls in a medical consultant-specialist on its behalf. So far, extensive court rulings as well as academic papers have been written, dealing with the theoretical distinction between legal causation and medical causation. Writings in the field emphasize that although an expert is used as the court's medical 'oracle', decision-making power remains in the hands of the court. The current study was designed to evaluate the practical significance of the distinction between legal and medical causation, while examining the correlation between the expert's opinion and the court's ruling on the question of the causation between medical impairment and the job.

This qualitative-empirical study examines 229 rulings dealing with the question of causation between a medical impairment and the job, while being assisted by a medical specialist. The rulings were taken from all the regional Labor Courts.

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The findings show that in most cases the court rules in accordance with the expert's opinion. In light of these findings, there is doubt regarding the practical meaning of the distinction between legal and medical causation, as well as the efficiency of the existing mechanism in acknowledging work injuries. The study is of great significance, in light of its practical implications, such as creating an alternative mechanism for the court to decide upon causation between a medical impairment and the job. For example, medical committees might be authorized to serve as appellate instances of the claims officer's decision. However, this would require thorough research about the conduct of medical committees and their suitability to serve in this capacity.

I hope that this study will increase the awareness and academic discourse about the field of work injuries, in view of their great influence, both on a personal and a national level.

The paper won a competition named after the president of the National Labor Court, Judge Menachem Goldberg, for papers in the fields of Labor Law and Social Security (2016).

Parents' participation in treatment planning and assessment committees deciding on out-of-home care

Einav Ben-Gal¹ and Vered Slonim-Nevo¹

This article deals with parents' participation in Treatment Planning and Assessment Committees, based on the analysis of 73 committee 7 protocols conducted from 2012-2014. The protocols were sampled from all four Ministry of Welfare districts using a convenience sample. We searched the protocols for evidence about parents' participation in the decision-making process related to their child's treatment plan: parents' attendance and involvement in preparation meetings and committee discussions, the expression of parents' perceptions and attitudes about the nature of desirable treatment, the consideration of parents' perceptions and attitudes in the final decisions of the committees, and references to family-centered interventions in the community prior to the decision about out-of-home placement.

Results indicate that in most cases there is no documentation of parental preparation before committee discussions; no consistent effort is made for fathers' attendance; no precision in representing absent parents' preferences; in most cases there are references to parents' perspectives on out-of-home care, but fathers' perspectives are less detailed than those of mothers; in all cases, no documentation found the presentation of different possibilities regarding the out-of-home care or the clarification of parents' preferences about location, degree of religiosity, or treatment methods; in a third of the cases no reference was found to attempts at community intervention before the decision on out-of-home care was made. Where there is reference, most interventions are child-focused, and make almost no mention of interventions answering the material needs of the family. Usually there is no explanation for the failure of community treatment, and when there is such, the failure always refers to the parents.

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Perceptions of soldiers without intellectual disabilities towards inclusion of soldiers with intellectual disabilities in the military

Shirli Werner¹

The Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities advocates the right to social inclusion. One field that has rarely been considered central for inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) is military service. The Equal in Uniform program provides an opportunity for people with ID to serve meaningfully and normatively in the Israeli Defense Forces as do other soldiers. The program allows for contact and familiarity between soldiers with and without ID within military units. The program also aims to bring about positive attitudes among those serving side-by-side with soldiers with ID. This study examined the attitudes of soldiers without ID regarding inclusion of soldiers with ID in the military. Further, the study examined differences in attitudes between those soldiers who are familiar with Equal in Uniform participants by serving with them and those who are not.

A self-administered questionnaire was completed by 239 soldiers, 154 were familiar with soldiers with ID. The questionnaire included 12 items measuring attitudes towards inclusion of soldiers with ID based upon a previous questionnaire measuring attitudes towards inclusion within a youth group and two open ended questions.

Participants reported on positive attitudes towards inclusion, with more positive attitudes reported by soldiers who were familiar with Equal in Uniform soldiers. Further, although open-ended questions elicited some ambivalence towards inclusion, more soldiers perceived inclusion as beneficial to the military both in its ability to improve motivation for

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military service of soldiers without ID as well as its ability to allow soldiers with ID to feel equal and accepted.

We discuss the benefit of the Equal in Uniform program in strengthening the ideology of social and psychological inclusion within the Israeli military and in society at large. On a practical level, findings show the importance of allowing for ongoing contact between soldiers with and without disability, providing opportunities for them to work together toward joint goals while using their abilities and skills. Further research should examine the impact of changes in attitudes that result from contact in adult life.

Palestinian community social workers working in Israel: Experiences and challenges

Hozam Hardal-Zreik¹ and Edith Blit-Cohen¹

The article is based on a critical study aimed at giving a voice to female Palestinian community social workers, citizens of Israel, and presenting their experiences and challenges within the framework of their work. To date, Palestinian women engaged in community work in Israel have not been studied. The research is based on semi-structured interviews with fifteen female community social workers. The findings point to three main challenges they face in their work: professional, political, and gender-based. These are expressed in different ways, both in their professional and private lives. The study is based on the researchers' critical world view and on their belief that documenting the voices and experiences of Palestinian community social workers makes a unique contribution to releasing them from the shackles of political and social influences to which they are bound.

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