

Accreditation – the most important goal for a clubhouse

A very exciting clubhouse year started the 10th of October 2015 and will last until the 26th of October 2016, where the 14th European clubhouse conference takes place in Amsterdam. Let us take the advantage of being a strong clubhouse community in Europe and help each other to strengthen our clubhouses and set membership of Clubhouse International and accreditation as one of our most important goals. As you probably already know the Board of Clubhouse International, the Faculty and other groups of Clubhouse International decided to strengthen membership, so all clubhouses will have to be accredited to be a member of Clubhouse International. New clubhouses have 4 years to achieve accreditation, and existing clubhouses have 2 years to ask for an accreditation visit.

I am happy to announce that Joel Corcoran and Jack Yatsko have visited Sweden, Finland and Denmark this Spring and answered questions about the accreditation process, and why it is so important to be an accredited clubhouse. It has given results. More Scandinavian clubhouses have decided to be accredited. You must know that you can always ask Clubhouse International, local coalitions or already accredited clubhouses for help and assistance to be an accredited clubhouse. Going through the questionnaire which is a part of the preparations for an accreditation visit is the best way to develop your clubhouse. Here members and staff together go through the International Standards and discuss strengths and weaknesses in your clubhouse. It is here you have all the discussions and get ideas to how you can make the work even better. I can only encourage every single clubhouse to go through the questionnaire even if you don't think you are ready to ask for an accreditation visit or you don't have the money.

Today it is getting more and more difficult to get money from the municipalities. They demand high quality. Being an accredited clubhouse you can document that your work is of high quality.

Clubhouse International's goal is to double the amount of accredited clubhouses in Europe. I hope that your goal for 2015 and 2016 is to be an accredited clubhouse. It is very important that we have strong clubhouses in Europe, and that we can give persons suffering from mental illness the best possible help and support to get a meaningful life with education and employment.

Hanne Juul

Member of the Board of Clubhouse International