

Slovenia Summer Camp 2007

Healthcare Work Stream Summary

Marius Buiting, David Somekh and Mary Morrisey led this work stream.

On Sunday 19th August the group of 20 or so professionals, from all aspects of healthcare and representing ten countries, began with a consideration of what Marius called the 'red thread', the main theme, that is 're-thinking healthcare'.

In previous healthcare summer camps there have been five themes – leadership, revolutionary breakthrough, reframing education, transformational learning and passion and compassion in healthcare.

Marius reminded us that what influences healthcare can be represented by three overlapping fields; economy, health and roles.

The group started by using personal experience to answer three questions
Your personal (including your family members) experience of healthcare?
How you would wish this to be transformed in the future?
What values does this exercise define?

Three key messages came out of this 'lets add life to years, rather than years to life'.
'can we think about healthcare without hospitals and including care for carers?'
'can we shift the balance from technological advances in treatment more towards prevention of disease, self –management and predominantly community care?'

The group then spent time defining a series of six projects related to these themes, recognising that only one or two might eventually see the light of day!

On day 2 (Monday) we started with the plenary presentations on healthcare, particularly from Marko Kiauta (representing the Slovenian Society for quality) and Samo Fakin, representing ZZZS, the national health insurance scheme.

These presentations stimulated the group to a lengthy discussion on how to re-frame health services in Slovenia and one idea that came out of this was to write a joint letter to the government of Slovenia, suggesting a co-operative approach. This was something that might be shared with other work-streams and Marijke Korteweg offered to make a first draft dealing with the healthcare issues.

After lunch Christian Mayer stimulated the group by inviting them to examine concepts of healthcare using visual materials to describe creative paradoxes, the notion of the oxymoron. A lot of fun was generated by this, for example 'health care' (as an oxymoron – think about it!), 'the holistic neurosurgeon' and 'well patient – poor doctor'.

On day 3 David Somekh gave a lengthy presentation on the unconscious, creativity and current trends in transformational change for business entitled 'what can the archangel tell us about the future of our organisation?' He stressed the multilayered and potentially misleading nature of our perception of reality and the need for business leaders to adapt and develop skills to deal with increasing uncertainty, rapid change and the global pressures for creativity and sustainability to balance

profitability as a driver for survival. He briefly reviewed three recent textbooks that illustrate these issues.

Marius, in summing up, emphasised that for future development, clear goals were less important than the process of transformation. There can be no firm conclusions from the three days because we are dealing with work in progress.

David commented that healthcare needs both dreamers, whose skill is in developing a vision of how things might be, and crafts persons, whose skill is in making such ideas happen.

We hope to succeed in initiating a further workshop within Slovenia (to coincide with their Presidency of the EU) to explore these ideas in a constructive way.

(thanks to Mary, Maggie and Marius for contributing to this summary).

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