



**Welcome to this special March 2017 edition of the WHOs newsletter.**

## THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES

The World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC) is pleased to announce that Mr Garth Pople, Executive Director of We Help Ourselves was elected as the Vice Chair of the WFTC at its meeting in Mallorca in December 2016.

This is the first time in the history of the WFTC that the honour has been bestowed upon a therapeutic community member outside the United States and highlights the incredible work being undertaken by the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association and its members in Australia.

James Pitts, the former CEO of Odyssey House (NSW) was also recognised through the presentation of the O. Hobart Mowrer Award, in Recognition of Excellence in the global field of Therapeutic Community Treatment.

The full WFTC communique from the meeting follows.





Mallorca, December 3rd, 2016 – 5th WFTC INSTITUTE: Essence and Innovation  
**WORLD FEDERATION OF THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES (WFTC)**

## DECLARATION OF MALLORCA

### INTRODUCTION

The WFTC is an international association with the goal of uniting and supporting the broad global Therapeutic Community movement worldwide (all five continents). WFTC provides sharing, understanding, guidance and cooperation.

The Declaration of Mallorca has been adopted the 3rd of December 2016 in the city of Palma de Mallorca, Spain, within the celebration of the 5th Institute of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC), organized by Projecte Home Balears and the Asociación Proyecto Hombre. More than 150 experts in addiction and Therapeutic Communities from 26 countries have participated. This declaration comes out after three days of deliberations and contributions, organized in working groups and under the guidance of the WFTC Board, the members of the Institute Scientific Committee and the coordinator of the Declaration.

The Declaration of Mallorca is based on a group of actions, recommendations and agreements in terms of primary care, treatment, recovery and social re-integration of drug-dependent population, include drug prevention, with the goal of implementing them over the following ten years, until 2026. The previous Declaration was established in 2010 in the Italian city of Genoa during the IV WFTC Institute, organized by CEIS Genoa.

The Declaration of Mallorca recognizes the Therapeutic Community as one of the most effective approaches for the rehabilitation and recovery of addicted people and their families worldwide.

All the participants commit themselves to accomplish the actions and recommendations expressed in the Declaration and to transfer them to their therapeutic communities and to the rest of the regional and international community.

### MAIN CRITERIA

The Declaration of Mallorca has been elaborated under the following main criteria:

#### COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE

Our action is fully oriented to give the best service available to those who suffer from their addictions, also their family and social environment and their communities all over the world, based on a non-profit honest work. We are also committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **INNOVATION**

It acknowledges the effectiveness of the essential elements of the Therapeutic Communities (TC) as well as the broad range of adapted methodologies and modified TC approaches worldwide. Research and evidence based practices are unequivocally supported.

## **PARTICIPATION**

The Declaration is approved by the members participating at the 5th WFTC Institute, following a participatory systematic process with high consensus and transparency.

## **ACHIEVABLE**

The Declaration's proposals are concrete, clear and measurable. The conclusions are realistic, applicable and affordable.

## **WILLINGNESS TO DISSEMINATE**

An active dissemination of the present declaration will be made throughout the Therapeutic Communities movement and other stakeholders such as local, national and international organizations, civil society institutions, professionals bodies, addicted populations and their families.

## **MAIN THEMES**

Therapeutic Communities support a wide range of addiction profiles, with an increasing attention to specific vulnerable groups such as women, children, the homeless, people with HIV, Hepatitis C, co-occurring disorders, offenders and others. The interventions have to be adapted to the participants' needs and their cultural, economic, social and religious diversity.

It is critical for representatives from international and regional organizations, governments, civil society and private sector to recognize the role of the Therapeutic Community movement in resolving problems associated with drugs and other addictions and the consequent suffering of millions of people. Therapeutic Communities stress the fight against stigmatization of the addicted population.

Much progress has been made in introducing the gender perspective into the treatment of addictions. Nonetheless, organizations are invited to reinforce these achievements as a priority.

Therapeutic Communities welcome aftercare services focused on improving the social reintegration of the participants. These follow-up services are critical in reducing relapsing episodes.

Families and other social networks become key factors during the TC treatment and we should encourage them to get engaged.

The promotion of vigorous research and evidence based outcomes is crucial for the sustainability of our TCs. Moreover, we invite all organizations to be involved in publishing scientific papers and collaborating with academia and the research community.

We call upon the WFTC and all members to produce cost-benefits studies to demonstrate the value of the TC model to the stakeholders.

We acknowledge that transparency and accountability are fundamental aspects of the functioning of the organizations in the addiction field. These are the mandatory prerequisites for obtaining and sustaining credibility from governments and society.

In many countries Therapeutic Communities are insufficiently funded. We encourage the policy makers to support TCs, for they provide an irreplaceable aid for recovering addicted people. It is urgent to diversify resources and to explore alternative funding.

The WFTC will reinforce a continuing presence and advocacy of the TC movement at international organizations and fora in collaboration with the regional federations and civil society networks.

We recognize that TC staff need continuous training and education, mentoring, caregiving and external supervision. Staff well-being should be promoted in order to minimize the possibility of burn-out.

TC leadership should be inspirational, transparent, and of service to the community and to the organizations. The TC movement is evolving to new organizational leaderships. The renewal of leadership is of paramount importance and can be achieved through carefully designed succession plans.

Therapeutic Communities require interdisciplinary professional teams, including experts by experience, to deal with the complexity of addiction within a bio-psychosocial framework. The identity of the TC staff lies in a combination of professionalism, vocation of service and the passion for people.

Communication through internet and social media is an indispensable tool for increasing the awareness of society about the harmful consequences of addiction. This type of communication also contributes to the visibility of the TCs and their effectiveness.

## **CONCLUSION**

This declaration reaffirms the commitment of the Therapeutic Community movement to serve addicted populations and their social networks all over the world by restoring their hope, dignity and personal well-being.

Sushma Taylor  
President  
World Federation of Therapeutic Communities

Jesús Mullor  
President  
5th WFTC Institute Scientific Committee



The dedication and commitment World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC) member organizations continue to exhibit is truly amazing. We can take pride in the fact that we truly influence change through our work and our advocacy.

WFTC members have successfully engaged in the development of effective pro-gram models for over 50 years. We have successfully showcased the miracle of recovery. That overcoming acute adversity — such as abuse, addiction, poverty and social dislocation — transforms lives. WFTC members have continued to seek solutions, to learn, to grow, to adapt and to adjust.

We have adjusted to changing participant demographics, to fluctuating financial support, to shifts in government policies and to the complexities of consumption patterns.

It is with this look towards the future that WFTC recently convened in Palma de Mallorca to discuss, deliberate and to develop an organizational manifesto. This document affirms our principles and our resolve.

We must applaud everyone who helped in shaping this document to reflect the will of the collective group. We are particularly grateful to those key few who molded our thoughts and ideas into a collective, unified written vision. We thank you.

As we look towards the future, we can take pride in our accomplishments and still remember the challenges that remain. We must unite as a collective voice which can continue to speak our truth. We must share knowledge, exchange information and remain steadfast in our advocacy and in our support for global leaders to serve as officers of WFTC who will assist me in the noble work that we have undertaken.

The WFTC officers look forward to working with each of you. Thank you for all you do.

Sushma D. Taylor, Ph.D.  
President, WFTC



## WFTC OFFICERS 2017 - 2019

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