



# **EMPOWERING CAREGIVERS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY – GOTHENBURG, AN EXAMPLE**

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# BACKGROUND

- Focus on the carer situation - not the diagnosis
- Non-Profit, Currently 70 members - continuously increasing
- Member of National Carers Association, NSPHiG, HSO
- No Offices, no salaries,
- Budget is based on Member fees, limited grant



# OUR OBJECTIVES

- to provide a forum where caregivers may share their personal concerns with others in a similar situation.
- to influence health care staff as well as social workers to accept that caregivers knowledge of the patient is an important component of quality care
- to bring caregiver issues to local politicians, authorities and organisations.



- HOW DO OUR MEMBERS THINK ABOUT THE CAREGIVER SITUATION
- CAREGIVERS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE
- CHANGES IN SOCIAL SERVICES ACT
- CAREGIVER SUPPORT IN GÖTEBORG
- THE CITY'S GUIDELINE ON INFORMAL/FAMILY CAREGIVING
- EVALUATION OF THE GUIDELINE



# EVALUATION OF CITY GUIDELINE

- *Guideline has not fully brought about equal treatment of citizens on the basis of a caregiver perspective.*
- *The existing caregiver support does not provide an even service throughout the city.*
- *The evaluation displays remaining flaws in several of the development areas defined in the 2010 guidelines.*



# EVALUATION OF CITY GUIDELINE

- *the guideline needs to be revised and redesigned from a caregiver and population perspective.*
- *A clearer definition of target groups is a precondition for the guideline to also include caregivers for individuals with addiction problems*
- *Within individual and family care, the caregiver perspective needs to be discussed against the level of support given today.*
- *All officers and employees within social services need greater knowledge and expertise about the caregiver perspective.*



# THE FUTURE

- THE STRONG WELFARE STATE
- INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DEMENTIA PATIENTS
- AMBIGUITY IN POLICY DOCUMENTS



# CONCLUSIONS

- CAREGIVER REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD FORM A POSITION ON THE RISK THAT REDUCED COSTS MAY INCREASE CARE BURDEN
- HEALTH AUTHORITIES SHOULD DISCUSS WITH CARERGIVERS BEFORE FORMULATING POLICIES THAT WILL AFFECT THEM
- THE NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH SHOULD CLARIFY THE ISSUE OF APPARENT CONFUSION BETWEEN CAREGIVER SUPPORT AND COST REDUCTION MEASURES IN SOME POLICY DOCUMENTS
- CAREGIVER SUPPORT WAS ESTABLISHED TO ALLEVIATE CAREGIVER BURDEN, NOT TO REDUCE COSTS





# FINALLY...

- CARER SUPPORT WAS ESTABLISHED TO ALLEVIATE CARE BURDEN, NOT TO REDUCE COSTS



THANK YOU!

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