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PREPARING RESIDENTIAL CARE STAFF TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE: AN AGENDA FOR ACTION

With a special focus on the relationship of training and education to research and policy, this presentation will identify key issues in the preparation of residential staff that appear to be universal in FICE countries both in Europe and North America; and that might be addresses in the future in order to provide the highest quality care. An Agenda for Action to address them will be proposed. Major issues to be described include:

- The status of residential care as a profession: is it one, should it be one
- The scope of residential care: what should practitioners be prepared to do, where and with whom
- The nature of knowledge and skill base of residential care: how is it different from that of other fields
- The ways in which the knowledge and skills of residential care must be imparted to actually affect our practice
- The kinds of delivery structures that are necessary to translate theory and research knowledge into practice
- The need for 'practice research'; what this is; how training and education programs can prepare practitioners to conduct it
- The kinds of policy that is needed to support training and education for residential care workers for highest quality practice

*In dieser Konferenz werden ausgehend von einem interkontinentalen Vergleich (Europa-Nordamerika) die wesentlichen Aspekte in der Ausbildung von Erziehern angesprochen. In der Hauptsache geht es um das Berufsbild des Erziehers, um Ausbildungsziele, die Spezifität der Heimerziehung, die Beziehung zwischen Theorie und Praxis, die Notwendigkeit einer praxisbezogenen Forschung und um die Frage, welche Politik zu einer qualitativen Verbesserung der Heimerziehung führen kann.*

*Dans cette conférence, les aspects essentiels de la formation de l'éducateur/trice seront examinés sur la base d'une comparaison entre les continents de l'Amérique du Nord et de l'Europe. Les sujets abordés seront la définition de la tâche de l'éducateur/trice, les objectifs de la formation, les aspects spécifiques de l'éducation extra-familiale, les relations entre théorie et pratique, la nécessité d'une recherche axée sur les exigences de la pratique et les paramètres d'une politique menant à une amélioration des services en faveur des enfants et jeunes défavorisés.*