

OPINION STATEMENT

by **Prof. Dr. Kancho Trifonov Tchamov, Ph.D.**, member of the Scientific jury by order
№ P-109-116 / 14.03.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev
Stoyanov "- Varna

With reference to: procedure for defense of a dissertation and awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to **Daniela Sabeva Taseva** , PhD student in independent form of training in the doctoral program "Health Care Management", at the Department of Health Care Management in the Faculty of Public Health at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov "- Varna on the topic: "Interaction of the nurse with the families of children with disabilities in providing integrated care ".

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Sonya Toncheva, Ph.D.

1. General characteristic of the dissertation

The dissertation of Daniela Sabeva Taseva contains 241 standard pages, and the text is illustrated with 2 diagrams, 35 tables, 40 figures and 4 appendices. The literature contains 185 sources, 121 of which are in Cyrillic and 64 in Latin. The paper is structured in five chapters as follows: introduction, literature review, purpose, tasks, methodology and organization of the study, results and discussion, service provided to a child with disabilities in a comprehensive service center, conclusions, recommendations, contributions, literature sources and applications. The individual chapters of the study are chronologically related and meet the structural and substantive requirements for such scientific work. The appendices present the four questionnaires developed independently by the doctoral student as methodological tools for surveying the problem through the opinion of: specialists in integrated care for children with disabilities; students - graduates of the specialty "Nurse"; parents of children with disabilities; experts in the field of social services. Four scientific articles have been published in thematic connection with the dissertation, one of which in a foreign journal.

2. Relevance of the dissertation

Disability is defined as a long-term mental, physical, intellectual or sensory impairment that is different from handicapability. Children with disabilities are a group of society that, despite the state's efforts to include them, often remains isolated. Children with disabilities need special resources and interventions in the form of integrated care tailored to their needs and abilities. In this regard, there are various models (medical, medico-social, family-oriented, etc.) that aim to clarify and regulate the relationship of these children with parents, medical and non-medical professionals and society, as a prerequisite for their individual development. In this process, the nurse with her autonomous functions and responsibilities is an important partner and active participant in the team for providing integrated care for children with disabilities. The small

number of published results on the problem is mainly from comparative studies conducted by international governmental and non-governmental health and social organizations such as the UN, UNICEF, WHO, ILO and others. In this context, the dissertation of Daniela Taseva treats topical but underestimated in its managerial, scientific and applied aspects problem. The actuality of the presented dissertation is supported by the following realities:

- limited number of comparative analytical studies and publications on the results of the application of integrated care for children with disabilities;
- the need for evidence-based innovative models to offer effective and quality choices of integrated health care for this group of children.

3. Awareness of the problem

The Literary Review in a volume of 79 pages includes 185 literature sources, the majority of which have been published in the last 10 years. It is multifaceted and structured in five sections, which chronologically follow the main tasks of the research problem studied by the doctoral student. The used terms "children with disabilities", "integrated care", family-oriented approach, etc. are defined. Performed is a comparative analysis of the existing models and regulations for the provision of integrated care for children with disabilities and their families, as well as the role of the nurse in this process in Bulgaria and some European countries. Daniela Taseva demonstrates good literary awareness, analytical skills to place precise emphasis on current issues related to the realities of the organization and practice of integrated care for children with disabilities. In conclusion, the synthesis of the literature sources made by her shows a thorough knowledge of the problem, the current normative regulations and good professional and terminological competence.

4. Purpose, tasks and methodology of the study

The purpose and tasks of the dissertation are clearly formulated, specific and justified. The research methodology used, ensures successful achievement of the set goals and adequate solution of the tasks in the dissertation work. The subject of the study, the units of observation, their features and the information sources are comprehensively described. The research methods have been successfully selected and described in detail. Document's analysis method, comparative analytical, survey and statistical methods were used. A high degree of correspondence between the formulated eight tasks, the number of scientific interventions undertaken and the results obtained from the study. Scientific merit has the 4 questionnaires, containing 83 questions for developed to study the opinion of: the specialists providing integrated health care; the graduate students in Nursing; parents of children with disabilities; social service experts. I should note the high quality of the methodological tools, the accuracy of the study, as well as the reliability of the results. In this regard, the merit of the research supervisor Prof. Dr. Sonya Toncheva, PhD, should be clearly assessed.

5. Evaluation of the results and contributions of the doctoral student

The results of Daniela Taseva's own research are presented in Chapters 3 and 4 of the dissertation. They are grouped in 12 thematic sections, following the chronology of the tasks. The

contribution of the study is determined by its scale: it includes 720 people, divided into four professional and expert groups; it was held in 24 different centers for children and youth with disabilities from 7 settlements in Northern Bulgaria. The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents are analyzed. The results obtained from the answers of the respondents provide original scientific information about: the role and place of the nurse in the team for integrated care; cross-evaluations from each respondent group on the role of the nurse in improving the quality of care; the optimal professional composition of the multidisciplinary team (MDE), meeting the needs of children with disabilities; the level of awareness of the respondents by groups depending on their educational qualifications; the opinion of specialists, experts and students on the necessary skills and competencies of the nurse as a member of the integrated care team; the need for additional training and specialization of team members, etc.

The results of the analysis of the role of parents and family, as well as their relationship with the members of the professional team providing integrated care in determining the specific needs and selection of integrated interventions to implement a family-oriented approach have a scientific and applied contribution. Scientific and informative contribution have the analyses on: the availability of highly specialized care; the necessary support and assistance for parents of children with disabilities and their work commitment; the problems of parents while working with institutions and the barriers faced to the introduction of integrated services. The developed model of multidisciplinary team care in a Center for Comprehensive Services for Children with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases has a clear theoretical contribution.

I believe that the presented dissertation is significant with the results obtained in the highly sensitive interdisciplinary field of teamwork for nurses in providing integrated care for children with disabilities. The analysis of the respondents' answers reveals the existing consumer attitudes and correlations, which are correctly and competently interpreted.

The dissertation work of Daniela Taseva has original contributions of theoretical-cognitive and scientific-applied nature, the main of which are:

- Defined are the necessary skills and competencies of the nurse in providing integrated care for children with disabilities in a "Center for Complex Services for Children with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases" (CCSCDCD) as well as the existing barriers to the introduction of integrated care.
- Worked out is an original "Algorithm for providing complex services to children with disabilities in a "Center for Complex Care Services for Children with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases".
- A "Model of multidisciplinary team care for children with disabilities with the participation of a nurse" has been developed, applicable to the activities of the Nursing Centers.
- An "Information Brochure" has been developed, providing an opportunity for an informed choice of specialists and consultants from parents using the services of a CCSCDCD.
- The summarized theoretical and applied results of the study can be used in the preparation of teaching and learning aids applicable in teaching for students and graduates of the "Health Care" specialty.

The main conclusions are thematically systematized, accurately reflecting the results of the presented dissertation. The recommendations are synthetically presented, convincing and institutionally addressed.

The content and quality of the abstract meets the requirements of the Regulations of MU - Varna, reliably and adequately reflecting the main results of the study.

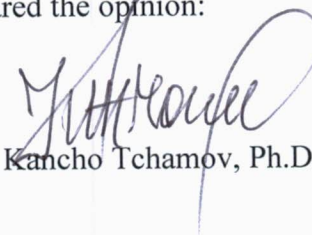
The dissertation is a personal work of the doctoral student, and I accept the formulated contributions and obtained results as her personal merit.

In conclusion, I accept that the dissertation presented by Daniela Sabeva Taseva entitled "Interaction of nurses with families of children with disabilities in integrated care" concerning the relevance of the problem, adequacy of methodology used, quality of results received and scientific contributions meets the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna.

In connection with the above, as a member of the Scientific Jury I will vote in favor of awarding Daniela Sabeva Taseva the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports" in the professional field 7.4. "Public Health" and the scientific specialty "Management of Health Care".

27.04.2022.
Sofia

Prepared the opinion:



Prof. Dr. Kancho Tchamov, Ph.D.