



Sjónarhóll

(Villa Villerkulla / Viewpoint)

Counselling Center for the Parents of
Children with Special Needs in Iceland

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Running

- Program launched August 1 2004
- Staff consists of 4 persons



For whom?

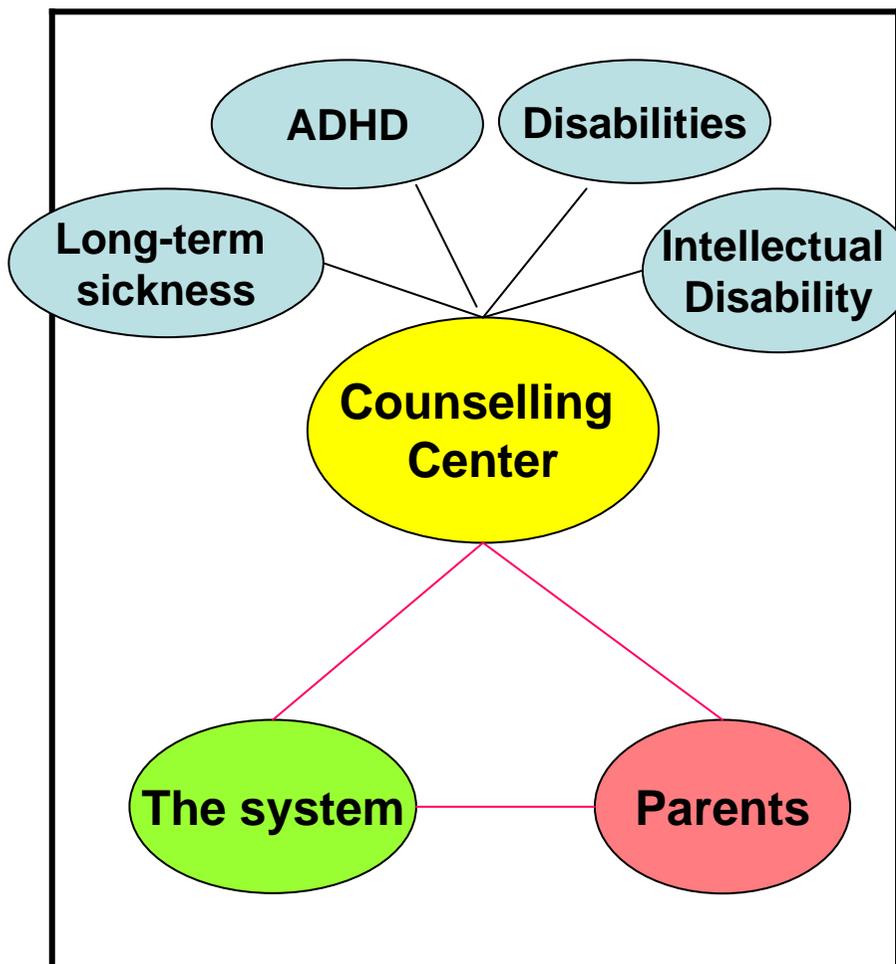
Parents of children with special needs in Iceland.

Aim

To provide support for parents in their parental role



Why?

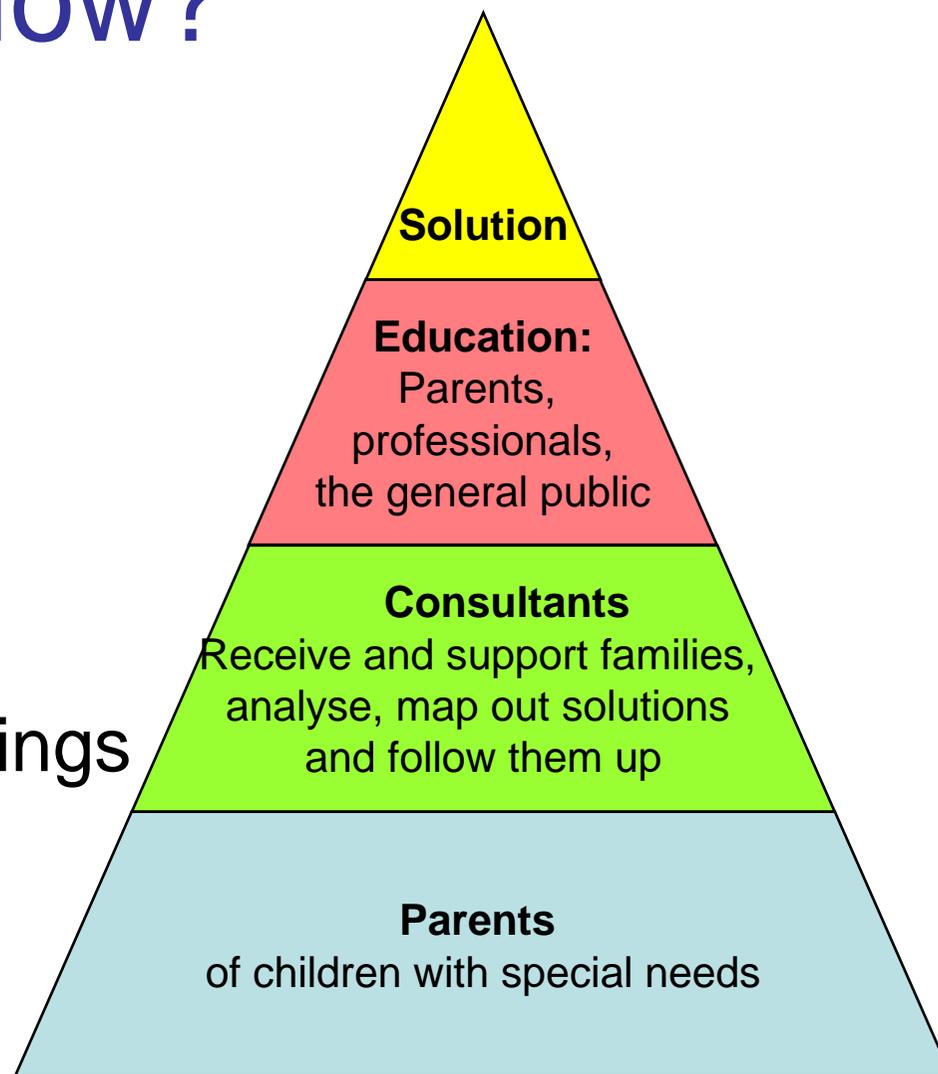


- More than 5000 families of children with special needs.
- Special needs often similar.
- Complicated system.
- Difficult overview.
- Rights sometimes hard to reach.
- Networking enhances efficiency and makes it easier for parents to cope with their demanding role.



How?

- Consultation
- Easy access
- Free of charge
- Independent of other services
- Network / team meetings
- Provided on parents premises.





What?

- Standing by the parents.
- Problem analyses, problem solving.
- Guidance about services and resources.



When?

Parents:

- Worry about their child's development.
- Feel they don't get heard in the system.
- Don't get the service they are entitled to.
- Need encouragement and support to keep up the fight for their child.
- Wish to consider their situation and possibilities.



Content

- Help parents in pursuing their rights.
- Assist them in finding suitable service.
- To be there for them when needed.
- Assist them in information seeking.
- Encourage information exchange between parents.
- Enhance knowledge about childrens special needs in the society.
- Develop services in cooperation with others.



Tools

- Discussion: Interviews, meetings, interdisciplinatory meetings, telephone
- E - mail
- Home page: www.sjonarholl.net
- Encourage contact between parents
- Courses - conferences



Clientéle

- $\approx 65\%$ have a diagnosis that entitles them to home-care payment.
- $\approx 30\%$ have ADHD.
- Some have more than one diagnosis.



Reasons for coming

- 45% School
- 25% Support service
- 20% Social situation



Residence

- > 50% from the municipality of Reykjavík
- ≈ 90% from the Reykjavík area
- ≈ 10% from the country side.



Organizers

- Umhyggja - Association to the Support of Long-Term Sick Children.
- The ADHD Association.
- The National Federation for the Aid of People with Intellectual Disability.
- The Benefit Society of Children with Disability.



Financing

Landslide collection in November 2003:

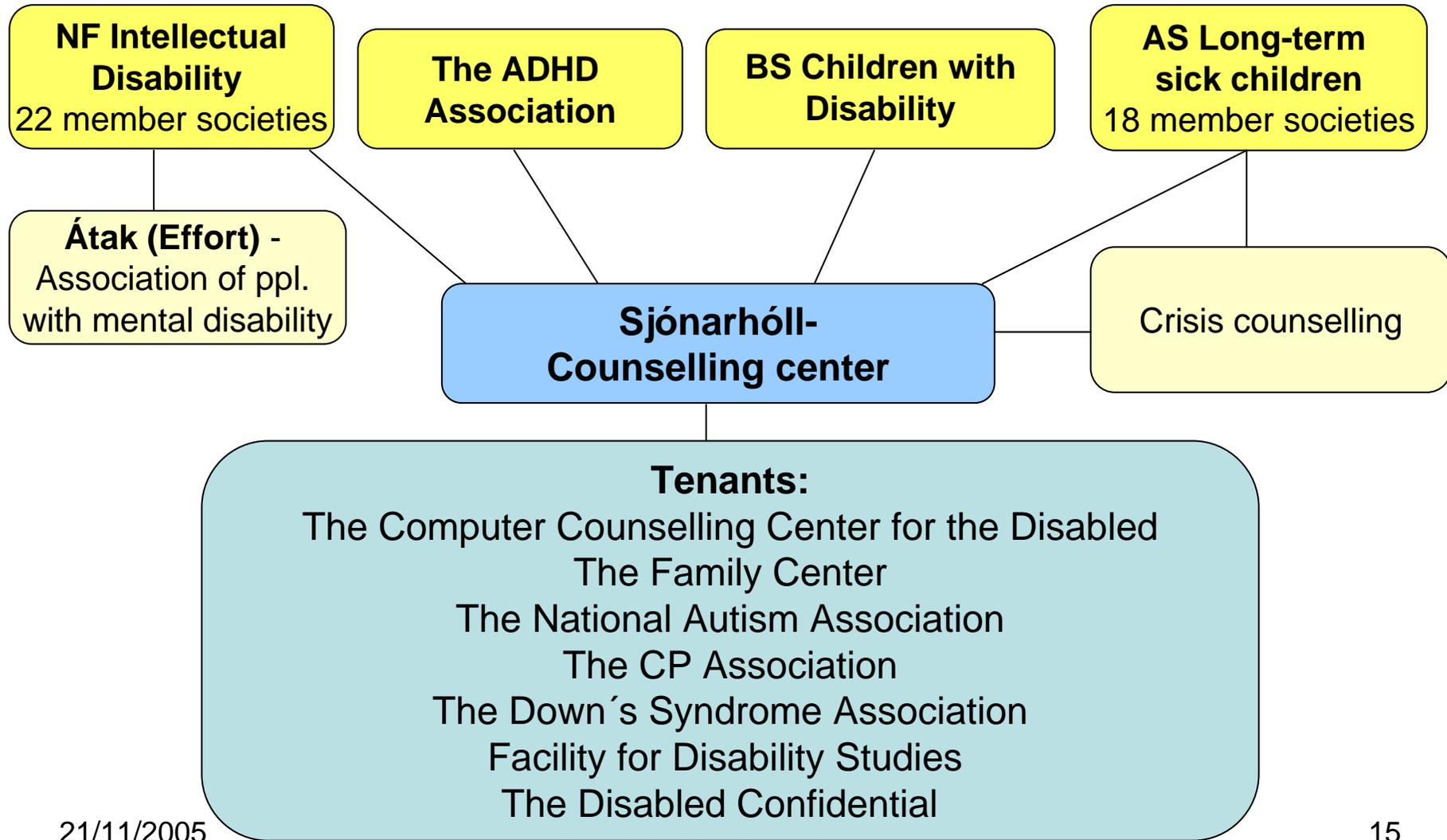
- Invested in the housing for the program

Three years financing granted by:

- The Government – Ministry of Social Affairs
- Charity funds
- Private enterprises



Same house





Many levels of service

