

EACH celebrates a special anniversary

It was a time for celebration when delegates from Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom gathered in Frankfurt from 26th-29th September to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH). Coincidentally AKIK (Aktionskomitee Kind Im Krankenhaus) the German host organisation, was also celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The EACH Coordinating Committee met and the biennial meeting of the General Assembly took place where delegates shared information about their respective organisations and countries and discussed the new resolution. A thought provoking Conference held at Frankfurt University, arranged by AKIK and open to the public, which covered the subjects of pain and communication, was followed by a visit to the Clementine Children's Hospital in Frankfurt the next day, thus rounding off a stimulating and motivating Congress.

Every two years EACH issues a resolution in order to promote and advance the rights of all sick children throughout Europe. The particular articles of the EACH Charter relating to the subject of the resolution are referenced along with the supporting articles and General Comment from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Here is the new resolution:

Resolution 14th EACH Conference Frankfurt 2018 on avoiding pain, fear and stress

Held in Frankfurt 26th-29th September 2018

In line with the EACH Charter for the rights of all sick children and its annotations, specifically article 4, 8 and 10, we call upon all governments to ensure that:

Having regard to ethical and legal considerations and as a fundamental part of the quality of healthcare for children, managers, healthcare professionals and insurance companies should strive for optimal patient cooperation without restraint, for patient comfort and the avoidance of suffering, pain and fear.

In order to deal with pain, fear and stress and to promote positive cooperation and engagement with sick children, professionals in child healthcare should:

- have the competence, interpersonal and social skills to make a connection with and to gain the trust and co-operation of children. They should be able to communicate in an empathetic and patient manner with children and their parents;
- have the professional skills, competence and experience to administer safe, effective and comfort-directed pain management procedures, and to ensure that children understand and accept such procedures (either verbally or non-verbally).

Delegates represented Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The EACH Charter

Article 4.1: Children and parents shall have the right to be informed in a manner appropriate to age and understanding.

Article 4.2: Steps should be taken to mitigate physical and emotional stress.

Article 8: Children shall be cared for by staff whose training and skills enable them to respond to the physical, emotional and developmental needs of children and families,

Article 10: Children shall be treated with tact and understanding and their privacy shall be respected at all times.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3.1 and Art 3.3: Best interests of the child

Article 12.1: Respect for the views of the child

Article 19: Child's right to protection from all forms of violence

Article 24: Children's right to health and health services

General Comment No 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the highest attainable standard of health (Art. 24)

For further information visit:

<https://www.each-for-sick-children.org/>

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

