



he gained support of border town governments and business in Ukraine as well, laying the final groundwork for regional cooperation.

Serenyi's initial activities included gaining support from local members of parliament in each country. It was essential to expand support beyond local government in view of the erratic border crossings in the region.

At the first meeting of the 12-member council of the CBED, the structure of the association was established and charter drafted.

At the inaugural meeting, which garnered much local and regional media attention, it was decided that headquarters will be in Hungary, but the organization will be chaired by a Slovak. The CBED has received verbal approval for one year of funding from the Center for International Private Enterprise, a U.S. organization.

Serenyi is pleased with the results so far, although he acknowledges the future remains uncertain. Further progress will not take place until the spring, following local elections that may change some of the players involved. However, Serenyi notes that there is very strong commitment on all sides. He adds he may return as a CESO Volunteer Adviser if requested.

Lviv Oblast joins Manitoba: Partners in Health Project

Ukrainian Psychiatrists study Canada's Mental Health System

Between April 20th and May 20th, 1995 a group of three Ukrainian psychiatrists from Lviv Oblast Regional Psychiatric Hospital visited the mental health facilities in the Province of Manitoba as part of the Partners in Health program. This was a continuation of an earlier working visit by Canadian mental health personnel (Dr. Walter Lebedin, Winnipeg and Helen Henry, Ottawa), to Ukraine in April-May of 1994 to the large Regional Psychiatric Hospital in Lviv and outlying districts. Ukrainian psychiatry and the mental health system in Ukraine were not only trying to recover from many years of ruinous neglect and abuses by the former Communist system, but also from the decades of censorship and isolation from Western psychiatric practice, health systems and standards of care.

That "first look" and extensive assessment of various needs of the organization prepared the way for the development of a specific program to allow

the visiting delegation to receive a good orientation and broad overview of the Mental Health System in Manitoba, itself going through the process of extensive reforms. The visiting guests, Drs. R. Bodnar, Y. Zakal and Zoryanna Koshulynska were able to observe evolutionary changes in mental health organization and delivery designed to meet contemporary challenges of better efficiency, cost containment, strategies, and improved quality care. It was hoped that this first hand exposure to new concepts and ideas would find application and prove useful in their own efforts back home.

The first two weeks of the program were confined to activities at the Seven Oaks General hospital, a 375 bed community hospital in northwestern Winnipeg as well as the PsychHealth Centre - a tertiary care facility with its associated university and teaching functions.

The following weeks were devoted to various visits to community mental health locations in Winnipeg and designed for the participants to observe first-hand the functioning of a spectrum of integrated services including those with many innova-

tive concepts involving consumer participation and alternatives to hospitalization.

As a culmination to their experience, a visit was arranged to the Mental Health Division of the Department of Health to specifically learn about computerization, planning and program evaluation. Finally, visits were arranged to associated health care facilities, organizations and other health care sectors such as home care, forensic services and child and adolescent treatment services which concluded the program.

Dr. Lebedin, Head of Dept. of Psychiatry, Seven Oaks Gen. Hospital, and host of the visit, summarized it as a most exciting and gratifying experience. "Our guests proved to be a group of dedicated individuals who painstakingly tried to make the most of their brief stay and who essentially fulfilled their mandate - to obtain that experience and knowledge required towards the betterment of health care in their native Ukraine."

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