Parents suffering from mental disorders and their unaffected children in municipal child and youth services (April 2015 – March 2018)

The HLCA subproject 5 – “Parents suffering from mental disorders and their unaffected children in municipal child and youth services” (Provider-MHL) – assesses institutional perspectives of needs and challenges regarding the work with children of parents affected by a mental illness. The interest of research lies on professional and organizational interpretations with a focus on questions of institutional interrelations. Children of mentally ill parents as a target group of different support systems are focused as an intersection and area of conflict at which (inter-)professional and organizational claims of jurisdiction and interpretations are being negotiated. Analytically, these conflictual processes are seen as boundary-work. This concept takes a view on articulations, manifestations and/or irritations of boundaries regarding users as well as professionals. The empirical research will comprise three stages and is based on a mixed-method design. Currently, the project is in the preparatory and initiation phase for the qualitative survey.

Stage 1
• Qualitative (guided) interviews with partners from the field of children and youth services and health care (psychiatric system) on the level of management
• Group discussions on the level of professionals working in the field
• Content analysis as an evaluation method

Stage 2
• Development of a standardized survey questionnaire and sending to organisations in the fields of children and youth services as well as psychiatric system (n = 270)

Stage 3
• Based on the empirical data collected, insights and knowledge for professional and organizational reflection will be developed

The cooperation project (University of Duisburg-Essen / Bielefeld University) is mainly located at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Faculty of Education, Department of Social Work and Social Policy. The project leader is Prof. Dr. Fabian Kessl, Kathrin Schulze and Dr. Michael Rehder are contact persons for the operational area.

Further details and information online:
www.uni-bielefeld.de/zpi/
www.uni-due.de/biwi/trans_soz/erkrankte_eltern.php