

Heroin Assisted Treatment and Political Aspects

moderated by Robert Newman

Getting heroin assisted treatment started

- involvement, commitment and intercooperation from:
 - local communities and local politicians
 - police, justice, treatment system
 - drug user organizations, parent organizations
 - national politics
 - media
- initiative dependent on national situations

Communicating heroin assisted treatment

- addiction is a chronic disease
- treatment is in the interest of society (cost-effectiveness) as much as in the interest of patients
- heroin assisted treatment in a broader context of prevention and treatment programmes
- modest treatment goals

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Warning by Robert Newman:

***Adapting* experimental heroin assisted treatment to politically motivated requirements, not *adopting* political constraints into 'standardized' heroin assisted treatment**

- American experience with methadone treatment (dosage limits, time limits on treatment, mandatory psychosocial counseling)

Do not exclude heroin addicts who might benefit most of heroin assisted treatment

Heroin assisted treatment in a changing, more progressive and open-minded political environment

- mutual benefit and stimulation between countries and continents