

Abstract Details

Session title: French - Professional issues (+Three-minute thesis)

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Abstract title:

Professional associations and homebirth: a French experience of midwifery activism

Biography

Anthony Bouvier est sage-femme libéral en France et président de l'association "la Naît Sens 06" qui organise l'accouchement à domicile dans le département des alpes maritimes. Après avoir exercé 5 ans en clinique, il s'est tournée vers l'accompagnement des accouchements à domicile, notamment en essayant d'apporter un cadre sécuritaire à cette pratique dans un contexte politique difficile. Il est également formateur auprès de l'Association Professionnelle de l'Accouchement Accompagné à Domicile.

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Description of research or innovation

In France, homebirth is a practice subject to a coercive policy. therefore, while 37% of women plan to give birth at home, only 0.3% of births take place at home. Since 2019, the hundred midwives accompanying them have decided to come together in association to promoting and defending this practice.

Our first action was to carry out a survey on the practice in France. This made it possible to identify the practitioners offering support for homebirths, their practices and their organization. It made it possible to evaluate the local solutions already in place in order to draw from them a proposal for a national model which we wish to be the bearer and promoter with the French authorities. From these proposals were born several actions, the main ones being:

The creation of a data collection tool in order to be able to analyze the practice of planned homebirths from an epidemiological point of view. It is based on the EuroPeristat perinatal health indicators, in order to be able to compare its results with those of other places of birth.

The development of recommendations for good practice to the various actors involved in homebirths, in partnership with other professional associations and users. Our lobbying campaigns have enabled us to reopen a dialogue with the governing bodies of our country.

The development of a training offer specific to the extra-hospital environment and adapted to the specificities of the French healthcare system. We have developed a training program and have succeeded in having it accredited by the authorities.

The establishment of a legal pool to offer quality defense to those of us targeted by legal or disciplinary actions due to the practice of homebirths

Significance to midwifery

Our work exemplifies the empowerment of midwives and with the aim of developing care centered on the

needs of women.

Keywords:

Advocacy

Association strengthening

Empowerment