

*Dealing with stigmatization*

*&*

*Role of patients organizations*

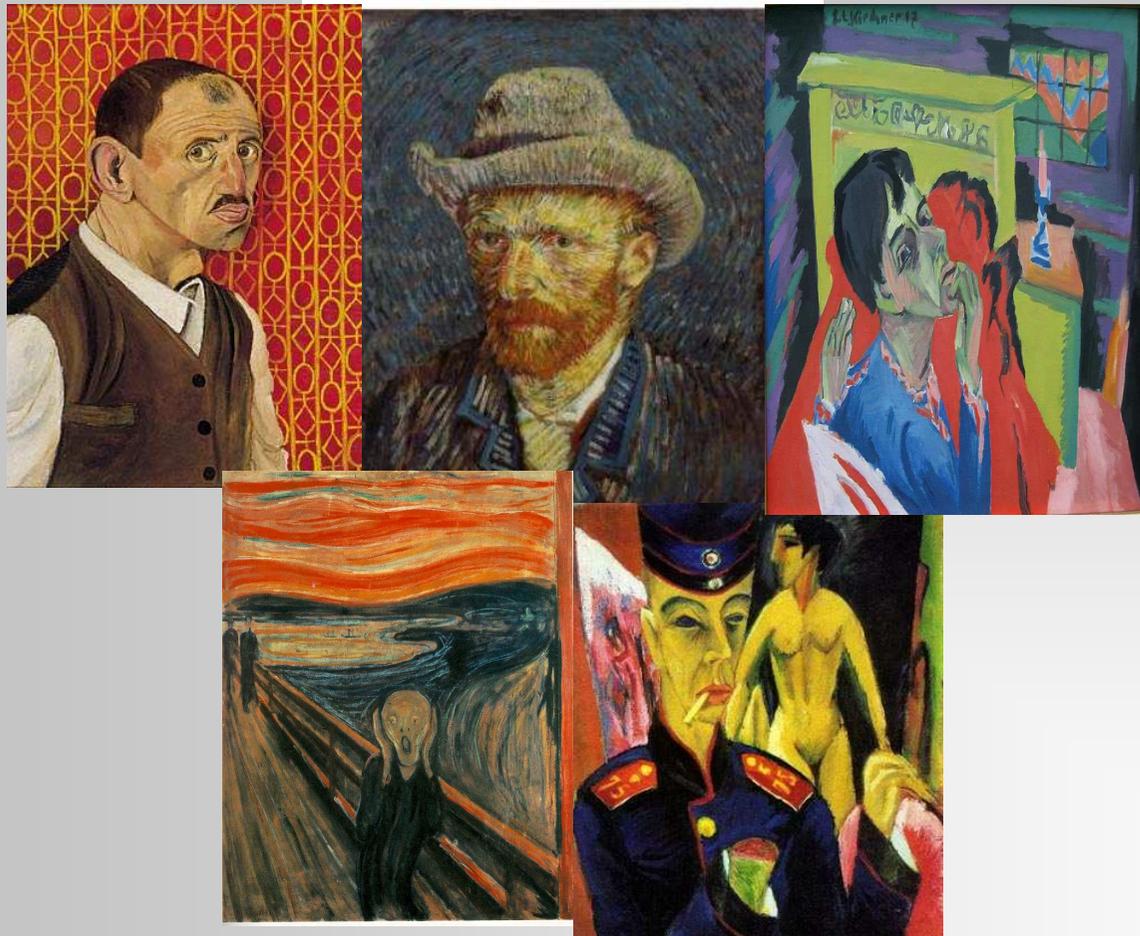
# *Why stigmatization of psychiatric patients?*

*Literature, fine arts, theatre, TV, printed press*



*There is method in my madness/ Hamlet/*

*Insanity in fine arts*



*We fear  
what we don't know.  
We suspect  
what we don't understand.*

*From Lizzie Borden  
To public assassinations attempts*



*Insanity pleas – acceptable legal practice  
Crime passionell*

*To random massacres*



**Colombine High school April 1999**

**Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris were both intelligent, came from solid homes with two parents, and had older brothers. Both enjoyed working with computers.**

**Germany school massacre Winnenden March 2009**



**Tim Kretchmer /7/ was found mentally ill**

- > 9 killed students
- > 3 killed teachers
- > 3 killed passer-by

*Good news is no news ???*

## *Stigmatization:*

- ❖ **Cocoon – world of their own**
- ❖ **Outside world – invisibility at best, shunning**
- ❖ **Professionals – paving the way**



*Road to hell  
paved  
by good  
intentions*

# Overprotectivnes

by

*Parents*

*Family members*

*Friends*

*Professionals*

## *What should we do?:*

- 1. Find the balance between protection and smothering**
- 2. Open dialogue**
- 3. Cooperation with the media – positive publicity**
- 4. Preaching to converted is not enough**

## *What the patients need:*

- 1. Professionals evoking trust and safety**
- 2. Understanding and empathy from state employees they have to deal with**
- 3. Communication on their level without humiliation**

## *Role of patients organizations:*

- *Information*
- *Empathy*
- *Sympathy*
- *Moral support*
- *Compliance*
- *Accepting the diagnosis*
- *Sense of belonging*
- *Providing positive publicity*
- *Helping families and friends to deal with problems*



*Nobody said life is fair.*

*We have moral obligations to make it easier  
for those who need our help.*

*Most of all, it will take a long term commitment  
and joint effort of all of us.*

*Thank you*

[info@koaliceprozdravi.cz](mailto:info@koaliceprozdravi.cz)

