



## **BITT AND DAVID**

### **Bitt:**

Good morning everybody. It is such an honor for me to stand here today to wish you all welcomed to Norway and to the World Seminar 2019.

My name is Bitt and I'm the director of Fontenehuset I Oslo. Me my colleague David here, are going to guide you through the opening plenary this beautiful Sunday morning.

I'm so excited for this opportunities we have, to gather, to exchange our experience, and to learn more about the Clubhouse practice, philosophy, values, organization and culture.

From today and through the next 4 days we going to learn and see how all the different pieces make an important matters for a whole person. Because everybody in this room today, in their own different way, contribute and make it possible for us to do what we do every single day; changing the world of mental health.

On behalf of our Clubhouse, our board and the Norwegian coalition we wish you a warm welcome and a great time here in Norway.

### **David:**

It is also a great honour for me to be here before you today. My name is David and I am a member of Fontenehuset i Oslo. I am also on the board of the Norwegian Coalition Fontenehus Norge.

An important theme of this conference is that of the whole person. The Clubhouse world is also made of many parts that come together that form one powerful body.

At the heart are the members, who are able to use this body to improve and empower their lives.

The hands, legs and feet are the staff who proudly stand each for their own Clubhouse and the Clubhouse Model. They help and guide the members whenever they need their support.

The patrons of the Clubhouse are the body's muscle, these public and private bodies, organizations, members of the board, the administrators and influential individuals use their power and authority to support and further the Clubhouse movement.

It is many parts that come together that create the whole and one exceptional team. Of course this body needs a head. To lead, advocate and unite all the parts so it can walk forward with a vision for the future.

Colleagues from around the world it is with great pleasure and please give a great welcome to Clubhouse International's executive director

### **Joel – Clubhouse International**

### **Bitt:**

We know that for a person to fully function, we need to collect all the right pieces together. Also for an organization like us to function, we need every right partnership of the system to support us. We need politician that puts our challenge on the agenda, a supporting municipality that contribute. A government that believe in what we do, and always and everyday trying to improve our way to support everyone with a mental illness who need help.

We are so bless with our government, that truly believe in what we do. It is an honor for me to welcome the President of our parliament Storting to the stage as one of the speaker for the opening plenary today. Please give a warm welcome to President of the Storting: Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen.

### **Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen – President of the Storting**

**David:**

Initiative, for many it takes a lot of courage to just walk through that front door and that for many is the first time that someone in the mental health system has a real choice, whether to stay or go.

History FH.

The Clubhouse International movement as a body began with some very small but vital parts.

In the early 1940s, Rockland psychiatric hospital formed a small therapy group of ten people in order to support them from readmission as they were close to being discharged. This therapy group initiative was an opportunity that 8 of these members seized upon.

On November 11th, 1943 one of them, Michael Obliensky wrote a letter to Elizabeth Schermerhorn, a wealthy patron who had originally been involved in this Rockland therapy group. This was the start of We are not Alone WANA. Even then there was interest from many other US states as well as Canada and England. Early stage, yet shows the vital need for a body to help and support for those of us who suffer mental illness that transcends national, ethnic, and cultural boundaries.

Elizabeth Schermerhorn recruited John Beard from Detroit. She also used her many connections, including ones she had made at Rockland Psychiatric Hospital to join together these vital elements of members, administrators, staff, patrons and the establishment into one body that works side-by-side and whose vital core component is not hierarchal, but voluntary that we now recognize as a Clubhouse today.

Small History of the Norwegian Clubhouse here (Need to check with Fontenehus Norge and their presentation)  
Fontenehuset i Oslo was the first Clubhouse to receive its Clubhouse International accreditation in 2003.

Stavanger 1995

Fontenehuset i Oslo first accredited Clubhouse in Norway.

FiO opened door Jan 2000, first Norwegian Clubhouse to be accredited in 2003

And now we have 14 Clubhouses here in Norway

We have had a lot of people supporting us over the years from all different backgrounds and really want to make a difference

Recognition to Annette and Nunne

Connect the history, from Clubhouse to Norway FIO

Pictures of Norway Clubhouses

### **Introduction of Clubhouse in Norway – Welcome to Norway**

**Bitt:**

Another partner that have contribute to the growth of the clubhouse model in Norway has been the Norwegian coalition. Their work has made a huge different for all the clubhouses in Norway, we have become stronger, more finical secured. The clubhouse model in Norway has become a part of a big research; we are collecting data and developing stats that show the effect of what we do. And it is with pride that I can share with you all that they also have contribute and written a whole chapter in a higher education textbook for social workers

Please welcome to the stage; Staff member and the director of Clubhouse Norway; Torhild Stimo and Svein Jacobsen

### **The Norwegian Coalition**

**David:**

Political important partnership who believe in what we do etc.

Politicians from all across the political spectrum have shown great interest and given tremendous support to the Norwegian Clubhouses and have embraced the Model. And this political partnership is so important for us today and for the future, and another fundamental part of the Clubhouse body.

Could you please give a warm Clubhouse welcome for the deputy mayor of Oslo.

### **Kamzy Gunaratnam**

**David:**

It is through this unification when all these different parts unite to form the body that it now becomes greater than

the whole. Once united, the spirit of the Clubhouse movement is added. And it is through this spirit that the members are now able to use the opportunities the Clubhouse opens up, that hands them the tools they need to find the self-confidence and empowerment they need to move on to the next and more positive stage of their lives. Through this body they can now find a voice and an audience that is now ready to listen.

It is with great pleasure that I can introduce Fontenehuset I Oslo member Einer Belck-Olsen

**Einar Belck-Olsen**