

# VIEWS ON MEDICAL ABSENTEEISM IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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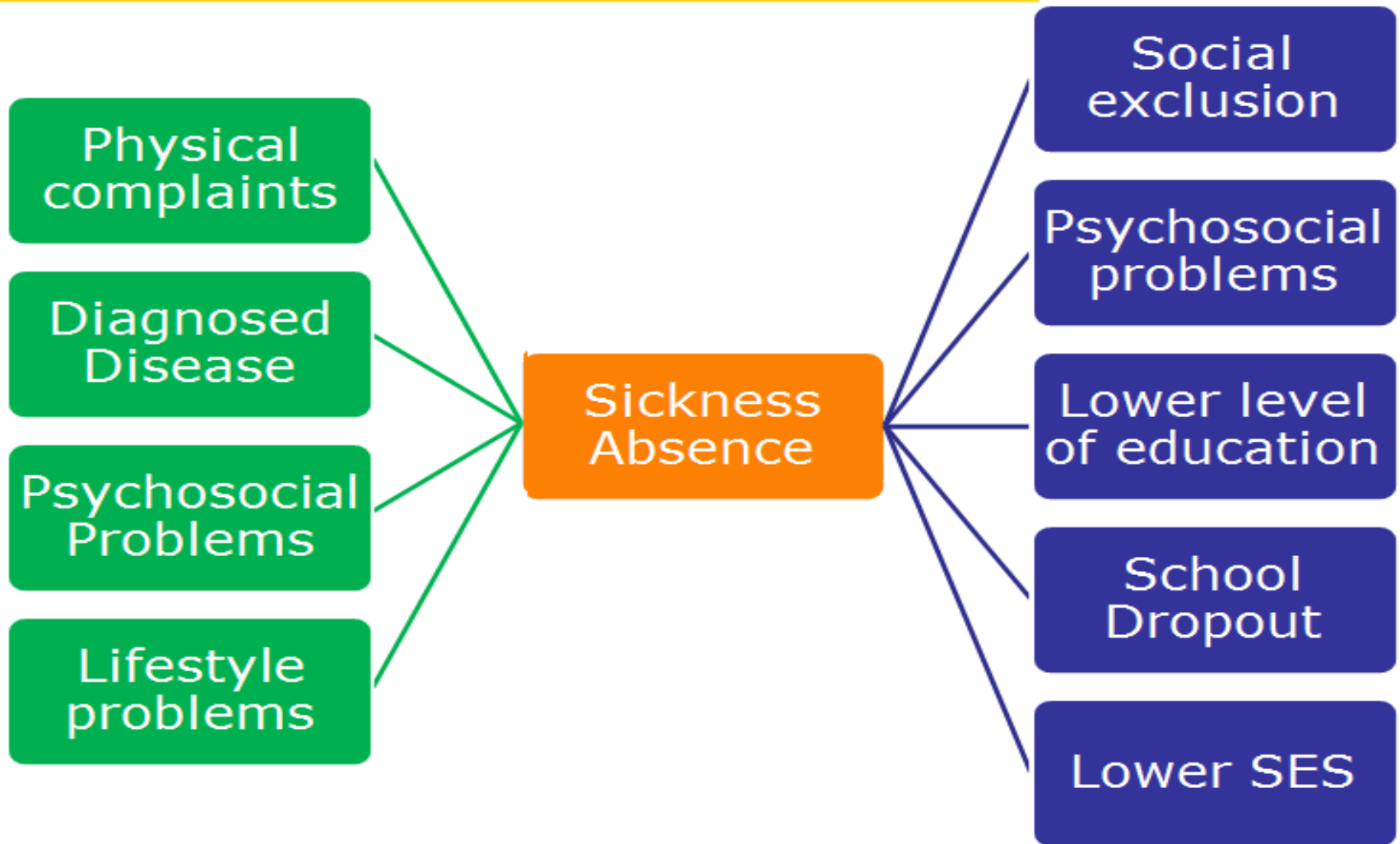
Prof. Dr. Angelique De Rijk, Prof. Dr. Frans Feron

# OUTLINE

- Introduction
  - Sickness Absence
  - MASS
  - Primary Education
- Aim
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions
  
- Take Home Message



# SICKNESS ABSENCE



# MASS: MEDICAL ADVICE FOR SICKREPORTED STUDENTS

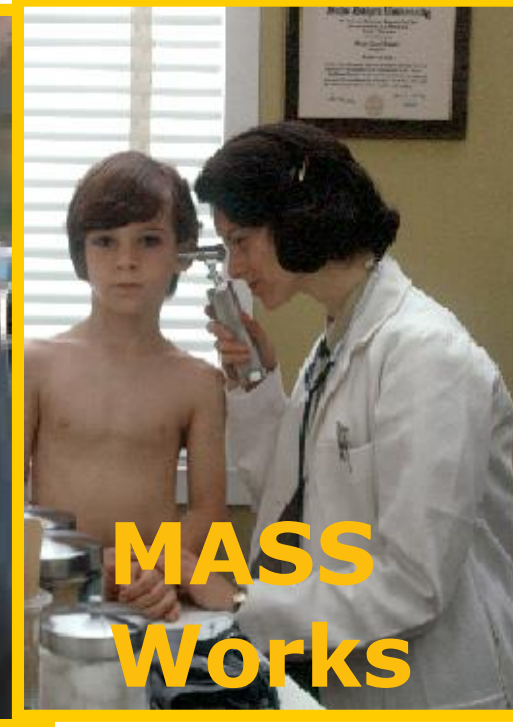
- Secondary schools (12-18) and Vocational Education (16-26)
- Collaboration
  - Student & Parents,
  - School,
  - Youth Healthcare Physician (YHP): consultation,
  - Municipal Attendance Officer: upholding attendance law.

# MASS: MEDICAL ADVICE FOR SICKREPORTED STUDENTS

Today at 15:30 - WORKSHOP 2

Reported sick from school: a challenge for Youth Health Care

## - Collaboration



# PRIMARY EDUCATION

- Start of problems
- Attendance patterns
- School motivation & social conditions
- Copying MASS did not work



# STUDY - AIM



To find out if and how MASS should be adjusted to primary education

Need to know:

- If sickness absence is a problem
- What the current approach is
- What is missing & could be improved

# METHODS

- Semi-structures group interviews
- Region: West North Brabant & Amsterdam  
- The Netherlands
- Participants

3



Special  
Education  
Needs  
Coordinators

3



Principals

3



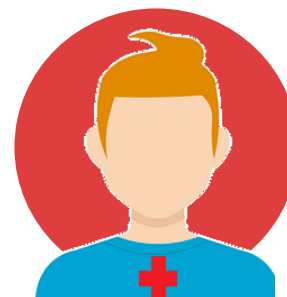
Municipal  
Attendance  
Officers

5



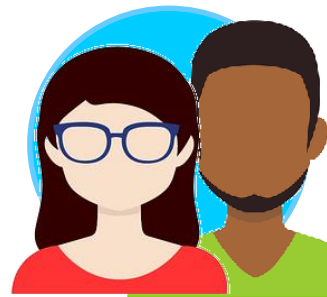
YHCP's

1



YHCN

4



Parents



# RESULTS

## Sickness Absence:

- Problem
- Sign
  - Physical & psychosocial
  - School vs. Home
  - Talking to parents
- Care vs control



# RESULTS

## Current Approach

- Unstructured
- Collaboration
- Signs → Problem Analysis → Solution



# CONCLUSIONS

- Sickness absence
  - Seen & adressed
  - Problem analysis
  - Collaboration



- Changes to MASS:
  - Follow & improve school care structure.
    - Social worker / Psychologist
    - Teacher / SENCO role

# TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Sickness Absence is a sign of  
biopsychosocial problems



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Treat the problem,  
not the symptom!

# QUESTIONS

