

Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit



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The Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), is pleased to send you a new issue of its Bulletin. The purpose of this publication is to communicate important advances, news, and information on publications in the fields of mental health, the control of alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation, and the international protection of human rights. The main objectives of the Unit are to strengthen the countries' capacity to develop mental health policies, plans, programs, and services; formulate public policies for the control of alcohol abuse; prevent disabilities and achieve equal opportunities for people with disabilities; and promote and protect the human rights and fundamental liberties of people with disabilities and their families. In this issue, the bulletin highlights advances in the promotion and protection of the human rights of people with mental illness.

Resolution on Prevention and Rehabilitation of Disabilities Approved by the Directing Council

The United Nations Organization estimates that there are approximately 600 million persons with disabilities world wide, some 400 million of whom are in developing countries. The Region of the Americas has roughly 60 million persons with disabilities.

Longer life expectancy, the increase in non-communicable diseases, emerging and reemerging diseases, growing violence, armed conflicts, accidents of all types, and the use of alcohol, tobacco, and banned substances are among the main causes of disability. Thus, there is no clear decline in their prevalence in the general population. The result will be greater demand for care in services and programs that up to now have been insufficient.

This document is grounded in the recommendations of the 2005 World Health Assembly (Resolution WHA 58.23), which recognize the need to promote and protect the human rights of persons with all types of disabilities, including mental and intellectual ones, among other recommendations. The document is also based on the recommendations of the 2001 Directing Council of PAHO (Resolution CD43.R10) which asked the Member States to update the legal provisions that protect the human rights of persons with mental disabilities and on the Declaration AG/DEC.50 (XXXVI-0/06) entitled "Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)", approved by the OAS General Assembly during its Thirty-Sixth Regular Session in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

KEY ISSUES

- Basic concepts such as rehabilitation, disability prevention, quality of life, rehabilitation services and an intersectoral approach (paragraphs 13 - 18).

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- The application of international and regional human rights treaties and guidelines in the context of disability prevention and rehabilitation as an important tool that can guide Member States of PAHO in the formulation of their plans, policies, legislation and practices (paragraphs 32, 33, 34 and 35) consistent with their commitments under international law.
- PAHO strategies for approaching disability and rehabilitation in the context of the new challenges. Strategies include: disability prevention, medical care and comprehensive rehabilitation, dissemination of international human rights norms and standards, scientific and technological development, inclusion and socioeconomic integration, integrated and inclusive education, collaboration with national rehabilitation boards, ombudspersons and international human rights bodies and an epidemiological approach to disability (paragraphs 38 - 44 and 45).

The resolution and the document can be consulted at:

<http://www.paho.org/english/gov/cd/CD47.r1-e.pdf>

<http://www.paho.org/English/GOV/CD/CD47-15-e.pdf>

11th International Congress International Federation of Psychiatric Epidemiology Göteborg, Sweden 3-6 May 2007

Globalization has changed the lives of people throughout the world, including their experience of psychiatric illness across generations. The 11th International Congress of the International Federation of Psychiatric Epidemiology will take place in Göteborg, Sweden, 3 – 6 May 2007. The main theme of this congress will be "*Globalization and changing patterns of mental disorders across the life span.*"

The purpose of the Congress is to bring together clinicians and scientists from different regions of the world who are engaged on these issues to establish an ongoing dialogue that will affect future directions in causal and outcome research.

For more information, please visit: www.congrex.se/ifpe2007

Brief Intervention for Disorders Related to Consumption and the Dependency of Alcohol Guatemala, Guatemala

Continuing with the training work that has been carried out since 2004, an educational workshop, directed to 25 specialists, took place in Guatemala City, Guatemala during the week of 16 - 19 October 2006. Among the participants, were psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers. Dr. Sylvia Shellenberger, from the Medical Center of Central Georgia, USA, presented the seminar. The Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit along with the Representation in Guatemala sponsored the event. Public figures also participated in this event such as Dr.

Alejandra Flores, coordinator of the National Program of Mental Health of the Ministry of Public Health of Guatemala. The first day, Dr. Werner Figueroa presented the current situation of alcohol abuse in Guatemala while the participants learned how to use methods of identification and two kinds of brief intervention interviews – with a brief advice and a motivational interview. In addition, a guest from Alcoholics Anonymous attended the workshop and facilitated the development of the dynamics of the training. As a final point, the participants developed plans for new projects, identified barriers and strategies to achieving the plans, and committed to including identification tools and brief interventions into their health centers.

For information, please to contact the Pan American Health Organization, Program of Alcohol and Substance Abuse at asabuse@paho.org.

Training for Facilitators in Prevention of Drug Consumption and Teaching Techniques Cochabamba, Bolivia

On 12 and 13 October 2006, a training workshop took place in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, with the objective of discussing policies and strategies in alcohol and drug issues. The organization of the workshop was a joint effort between Pan American Health Organization, the Ministry of Health, and the National Police.

Around 50 people from all the provinces of Bolivia participated in this workshop, including physicians of managerial levels and general practitioners from the Departmental Health Services (SEDES), health professionals from the health services local network, national police officials engaged in subjects related to drugs and alcohol, and two guests from the high school 'Normal Simón Bolívar – Ministry of Education. As an outcome, the participants formulated a declaration requesting effective policies and programs to reduce the demand of all drugs, which will be presented before the Ministry of Health and other authorities.

More information is available at the program of Alcohol and Substance Abuse of the Pan American Health Organization at asabuse@paho.org.

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Instruction manual for the Attention and Comprehensive Management of Drug Users Living with HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean

The purpose of this manual – only available in Spanish – is to provide the health professionals of Latin America and the Caribbean some directives and suggestions to work with patients with HIV/AIDS who are also drug users. It includes the theoretical bases to addressing reducing injuries and synchronizing the AIDS treatment with matters of mental health, especially to the phenomenon of the psychoactive substances dependency. It also presents concise information on the most common secondary infections in patients with AIDS such as Tuberculosis, Hepatitis and Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI). The main objective is to educate health professionals, physicians, and paramedics on major contemporary issues of managing drug users with HIV/AIDS and on the public health utilities necessary for serving such a vulnerable group.

In general, patients who are also drug users stir up negative reactions in the health services that tend to disqualify them morally and to offer them health services of a lower quality than that offered to non users.

It is time to expand the horizons and to provide humanized and comprehensive care of the highest possible level to all sorts of patients. This guide was written by Mónica Malta, Francisco Ignacio Bastos, and Helena Lima. The Pan American Health Organization thanks the financial support from the Ministry of Health and Consumption of Spain, and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation that made the development of this manual possible.

This manual was produced by the Mental Health, substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit in cooperation with the HIV/AIDS Unit. For copies, please contact the program of Alcohol and Substance Abuse of the Pan American Health Organization at asabuse@paho.org.

Links to other information sources and activities

World Psychiatry - Official journal of the **World Psychiatric Association**
<http://www.wpanet.org/publications/docs/wpa062005.pdf>

Psychosomatic Medicine is now publishing some articles online. To subscribe:
<http://www.psychosomaticmedicine.org/subscriptions/etoc.shtml>

2nd International Congress of Biological Psychiatry
17-27 April 2007, Santiago, Chile
<http://www.wfsbp.org/>

New issue of **Psychiatric News** at:
<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/content/vol41/issue22/?etoc>