



**Organización
Panamericana
de la Salud**

Oficina Regional de la
Organización Mundial de la Salud

**MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES
AND
REHABILITATION
BULLETIN**

APRIL 2008



Integrating Mental Health into Primary Health Care

It is a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca).

The report provides the rationale and know-how on successfully integrating mental health into primary health care. Readers will:

- Find out how providing mental health care into primary health care settings produces better health outcomes.
- Learn from other countries that have successfully integrated their mental health services into primary health care
- Discover 10 common principles that underlie all successful mental health integration, regardless of country resource level.

The new report *Integrating Mental Health into Primary Health Care* can be downloaded free of charge as of October 2008 from the website of WHO and Wonca.

The WHO MIND website provides a wealth of information on various aspects of mental health policy, services and human rights: http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/en/

The Wonca website is updated every weekday, providing medical and health information from a range of publications: <http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com>

International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights!

The International Diploma, which has been developed by WHO MIND in collaboration with the ILS Law College, will be launched in October this year in Pune, India

Based on materials and tools developed by the World Health Organization, Geneva, the diploma provides students with essential knowledge and skill set for a career in the area of Mental Health, Human Rights and Law.

In light of the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which will come into force in many countries in the coming months, as well as the increasing numbers of countries undertaking mental health reform, this course will provide students with indispensable knowledge and skills to support countries in bringing about positive change in this area.

For more information: <http://www.mentalhealthlaw.in/index.html>



Mental Health in the Americas
[A Change of Mentality >>](#)
Mental Health Information on PAHO /
WHO Webpage



**World Fellowship for
schizophrenia and
allied disorders**
(WFSAD)
<http://espanol.world-schizophrenia.org/>
alianza/

Workshop on Mental Health and International Human Rights Standards

The National Magistrates, the Association of Lawyers of the City of Buenos Aires and PAHO/WHO, sponsored the Workshop: "Mental Health and Human Rights: Application of the International Standards" in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26-28 March 2008. It had the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health of Argentina, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Collaborating Center of PAHO/WHO Human Rights and Washington College of Law (The American University, Washington DC).

The opening was held in the Supreme Court of Argentina. The President of the Court, Dr. Ricardo Luis Lorenzetti, considered the importance of the topic and of two recent decisions made by the highest court in Argentina on international human rights law for persons with mental disorders. In that session Dr. Lawrence Gostin, Director WHO Collaborating Center/PAHO, discussed the applicable human rights standards and explained some decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in this regard. Dr. Jose A. Pages, Representative of PAHO/WHO in Argentina, intervened in the opening offering the perspective of PAHO in this subject.

It was pointed out in the presentations that the interrelationship between human rights and health is a necessary condition for exercising the rights, but at the same time the effective exercise of the rights promotes a higher state of well-being and mental/physical health. It was also stated that it is essential that the plans, programs, budgets, and laws be based on human rights standards, considering that on average only 3% of the health budget in the region is directed to the area of mental health.

Finally, the use of human rights the instruments was key in recent cases decided by the Supreme Court in Argentina, by the European Court of Human Rights and by the Inter-American System of Human Rights.

On the last day were presented the conclusions and final recommendations. Among the conclusions it was pointed out the proposal of conforming a national commission for the formulation of mechanisms to shift those practices and regulations that hinder the effectiveness of the international human rights standards.

Workshop National on Evaluation of Mental Health Care (WHO-AIMS) Dominican Republic

On 3 April, in Santo Domingo the report on the evaluation of the mental health care in the Dominican Republic carried out with WHO-AIMS instrument was submitted. The report was presented by Dr. José Mieses, Director of the National Program of Mental Health, to a large group of representatives of health, academic, professional, and citizen institutions, as well as to mental health professionals of the country. Subsequently a national workshop that permitted to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the system was developed. The debates were grouped into five subjects; 1. the model of care decentralized, 2. Mental Health Policies and DDHH, 3. the training of human resources, 4. the strengthening of Primary Care and 5. the improvement of the information systems.

The national program committed to developing an intervention strategy on the basis of the conclusions of the workshop.

Coming EVENTS

- II International Forum on Mental Health and Human Rights, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22-25 Mayo 2008. www.ensp.fiocruz.br/portal-ensp/eventos/index.php?#7430
- WPA Thematic Conference on Depression and Relevant Psychiatric Condition in Primary Care, Granada, Spain, June 19-21, 2008. www.wpa2008granada.org
- IX International Congress on Traumatic Stress, Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 25-27, 2008. www.psicotrauma.org.ar
- XX Peruvian Congress of Psychiatric, Lima, Peru, 29-31 August, 2008. www.app.org.pe
- 51st International ICAA Conference on Dependencies, Limassol, Chipre, 2-7 November 2008. www.icaa.ch/ICAA_Limassol_2008_main.html
- XXV Congress APAL 2008, Isla Margarita. Venezuela, November 18- 22, 2008. www.apal2008.org