



**Organización
Panamericana
de la Salud**

Oficina Regional de la
Organización Mundial de la Salud

**MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES
AND
REHABILITATION
BULLETIN**

February 2008

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2008

***MAKING MENTAL HEALTH A GLOBAL PRIORITY:
SCALING UP SERVICES THROUGH CITIZEN ADVOCACY AND ACTION.***

It's time to reflect and look toward the future. With the final goal of making mental health a global priority in every country - what needs to be changed or what action needs to be taken in order to fulfill that goal? The 2008 WMHDAY material will focus on where we came from and what needs to be done yet for the future. We will highlight different levels of advocacy and its role in creating change and the need for scaling up services so all people have access to information, personalized treatment, and resources to assist them in all aspects of their recovery.

Words of Dr. Margaret Chang, General Director, World Health Organization (WHO), in her end of the year message to all staff of the Organization

"In another ominous trend, developing countries are facing a third burden arising from road traffic crashes, violence and injuries, and the tragedy of mental illness. WHO has done much to raise awareness of these problems and provide options for addressing them. As one recent example, WHO worked closely with The Lancet to generate evidence and formulate a call for action to increase coverage of mental health services in low- and middle-income countries. This is also an example of the importance of research and the great strategic and persuasive power of evidence."

**SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL
IN EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS SITUATION**

Guatemala

The School of Psychological Sciences at the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, in cooperation with the National Program of Mental Health of MSPAS and the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction CONRED, is preparing a Seminar on Mental Health, before emergencies and disasters, for students and a specialization directed towards professionals of multiple disciplines with the desire to prepare human resources that, from their different work areas, contribute to minimize the adverse effects in the mental health of those affected. The Pan American Health Organization (OPS/OMS) is supporting this process from the Area of Preparation for Emergent Situations and Aid in Chaos from Disasters and the Unit of Mental Health, Disability and Rehabilitation.



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/



MENTAL HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE

Integration between sectors

www.ops.org.ar/Files/asusalud%20MENTAL2.pdf (Only in Spanish)

The PAHO/WHO Representative Office in Argentina recently published a thematic number titled *Mental Health/Human Rights/Justice*; the document reflects the experience of the Intersectoral Table that functions in that country for approximately two years. The publication contains articles, interviews, elements of legislation and a great diversity of referential data. The work in the field of mental health is complex and difficult; the publication, precisely addresses aspects of the intersectoral task demonstrating that when there is will and a change of attitude in the involved professionals, there can be generated processes of encounter, shared spaces and promotion of joint initiatives. The studies show that the frequency of persons with mental disabilities increase year after year; and to be able to help these people it is necessary to face the myths and the stigma.

PAHO/WHO has acted as bridge among the parts, facilitating the encounters and collaborating in the permanence and systematization of the exchange opportunities. The results are reflected in this document. The only continuity of work, the permanence of the various actors and the inclusion of new protagonists, is in itself, a significant achievement.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TECHNICAL SECRETARY FOR DISABILITY

Panama

The OAS. has approved the creation in Panama of the technical secretary for people with disabilities. The first lady of the country, Vivian Fernandez de Torrijos, said that "it is necessary to leave the speeches and to start acting". The technical secretariat will serve as support to the program of action for the Decade of the Americas for the rights and the dignity of the people with disabilities 2006-2016.

UNITED NATIONS GIVE A NEW NAME TO THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS

The 18th of December the *General Assembly* of the United Nations gave a new name to the International Day of Disabled Persons, which is celebrated annually on the 3rd of December, to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The 192 States Members of the *General Assembly* made that decision unanimously when a resolution was adopted on the "Putting into Practice the World-wide Program of Action as far as the Disabled Persons: understanding the Objectives of Development of the Millennium for the persons with disabilities." The Assembly also called the organisms and occupied bodies of the Nations United in the development humanitarian aid and environment protection to assure that the disabilities perspective is incorporated in its work.

Coming EVENTS

- **5th National Congress, National Institute of Social Security & II Regional WPA Zone 3 Conference. Mexico City, Mexico, February 1-5, 2008.**
- **II International Conference on Medicine & Women's Mental Health: Assimilating a Different Approach. Medellin, Colombia, February 14-16, 2008. www.ces.edu.co**
- **XXII Centro American Congress on Psychiatric, ACAP 2008 Managua, Nicaragua, March 12-15, 2008.**
- **Panamerican Conference on Infant Juvenile Mental Health. WPA & Cuban Society of Psychiatry. Havana, Cuba, March 24-28, 2008. <http://www.cpalco.com>**
- **Argentine Mental Health Association: Modernity, Technology and Contemporary Symptoms. Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 27-29, 2008. www.aasaludmental.org**
- **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**
- **XXV Congress APAL 2008, Isla Margarita. Venezuela, November 18- 22, 2008. www.apal2008.org**