

30th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

74th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 26-30 September 2022

CSP30.R3
Original: English

RESOLUTION

CSP30.R3

POLICY FOR IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH

THE 30th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Having reviewed the *Policy for Improving Mental Health* (Document CSP30/9);

Recognizing the significant adverse impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have on the mental health and well-being of populations in the Region, as well as on the operation and delivery of services for mental, neurological, and substance use conditions;

Recalling the principles enshrined in the Caracas Declaration (1990), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (2019);

Recognizing the urgent need to improve mental health in order to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and to build back better mental health systems and services for the future, which are necessary for advancing the health, social, and economic development of Member States and the Region of the Americas as a whole,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Policy for Improving Mental Health* (Document CSP30/9).
 2. To urge all Member States, considering their contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to:
 - a) promote increased investment, both financial and human, in community-based mental health care in order to address the heightened demand for mental health and substance use services brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and to build stronger, more resilient mental health systems for the post-pandemic period;
-

- b) adopt a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to improving mental health that promotes strategic collaborations and partnerships with diverse actors across all relevant sectors (nongovernmental, civil society, academic, and persons with lived experience, among others) and that includes high-level political engagement;
 - c) improve and scale up equitable and comprehensive community-based mental health care for the entire population, and further integrate mental health and substance use into all levels of care to ensure progress toward universal health coverage;
 - d) support mental health promotion and prevention and the establishment and implementation of multidisciplinary mental health and suicide prevention programs from early childhood, extending throughout the life course.
3. To request the Director to:
- a) provide support to Member States to strengthen capacities that contribute to the implementation of the policy and the achievement of its strategic lines of action;
 - b) continue prioritizing and facilitating the integration of mental health and substance use services into all COVID-19 emergency response efforts by the Pan American Health Organization as well as other health initiatives across the Organization;
 - c) report periodically to the Governing Bodies on the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of this policy.

(Fourth meeting, 27 September 2022)