

**Occupational therapy in Primary Care - Training in Mental Health Promotion in the Family Health Strategy**

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We report here the experience of implanting a Professionalizing Period of Training in Mental Health in the Occupational Therapy Service of the Family Health Strategy of Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil. Through its connection with the University of São Paulo, the project counted with the participation of a multidisciplinary team and was implanted based on the concept of the Brazilian Health Ministry, which gives priority to Matricial Basic Care and to responsibility towards the cases attended, in an attempt to keep the individuals close to their affective and cultural ties and based on a study surveying the beliefs and values of users and professionals regarding the use of therapeutic activity. The proposal was implemented by the coordinators and professionals of the unit, who contributed to this construct in a collective manner. The period of training qualifies the student regarding the use of activities that will permit the patient to appropriate his non-verbal communication process by means of his actions and promotes contact between the subjective and objective elements of the reality of the individual and the creation of a space for the appropriation of the intention, signals and objectives of the reality provoked by his action. Understanding mental health outside institutionalized spaces where different aspects of the life of people can be reached indicates the community as a privileged site for health care actions. Accordingly, Occupational Therapy expands its field of action since it directly acts on the daily life of individuals and populations in an attempt to understand and transform human actions typical of determined contexts, so that these persons may acquire more autonomy and participation in the improvement of their quality of life and consequently of their health. With the increasing demand for occupational therapists, there is a clear need to train occupational therapists qualified for this field of action and to implant new services in view of the relevance and efficacy of this work recognized and shared by other professionals of the team. The action of occupational therapists in basic care provided greater resolutivity for the users and their families regarding the service for this type of demand.