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Título: "Caminos para la restitución de derechos y la construcción de participación social"

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Introduction:

Life in a Mental Health institution with a long history, such as the José T. Borda Hospital, erases the names, the social links and the contact with what is outside the walls. Many things have been written from diverse fields of knowledge. However, we are still concerned about the loss of basic rights that inmates suffer.

Objectives:

- 1) To mention aspects of the mental health institutions.
- 2) To link the institution with the inmates' human rights and disability
- 3) Propose interventions in OT that promote the restitution of rights through social participation.

Description:

The life way of most inmates and the restriction of their civil rights, in combination with the incapacities they present in the psychiatric, psychologic and social orders, produce a retraction to the insides of the Hospital, leading to isolation and exclusion. The isolation that was initially devised as a treatment strategy adds to the negative effects of the illness and produces new obstacles for the dischargement of the patient, even though the Caracas Declaration states that: "To isolate the patient from their environment generates more social incapacity."

Within the hospital almost everything is regulated: schedules, menu, permissions for going out, social contacts. Little is decided, and in this little, the exertion of the right to choose is committed to others (judge, institution, medical teams) until this right is diluted.

On the contrary, in Occupational Therapy we take part to generate as much autonomy as possible, and this implicates that the activities and the OT have to become a resource that causes linking and social supporting strategies. As a reference a groupal intervention and an individual one are described.

Results:

The mentioned cases show the effectivity of these strategies regarding social inclusion.

Conclusion:

The communitarian base strategies offer opportunities for the people who suffer from exclusion, as well as for those of us who work with autonomy and externation as a basis.

Contribution to the practice:

Developing interventions in OT in communitarian spaces, contributes to exit traditional environments and conventional roles.