

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN BRAZILIAN THERAPEUTIC RESIDENCES

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Introduction: The Brazilian Mental Health Policy seeks to consolidate an open mental health care model of communitarian basis. It includes multiprofessional teams and a varied net equipments such as Therapeutic Residences Services, Psycho-Social Care Centers (CAPS), Cultural Co-existence Centers, and cities General Hospitals emergency wards.

Objectives: Discuss the occupational therapy role and its performance in Therapeutic Residences of the Brazilian Public Mental Health network.

Description: The Therapeutic Residences are residential homes located throughout the city, for people with mental disorders who due to their confinement for a long period of time in psychiatric institutions had lost their families and social ties. Studies on January of 2009 had shown that Brazil had on that time 2.714 Therapeutic Residences, 1.326 CAPS, and 3.206 Going Back Home Program beneficiaries. The occupational therapist as a Residence supervisor works with residences' routine organization, dealing with different aspects of daily living in a real place for living and sharing.

Discussion: As the radical criticism and transformation of knowledge on treatment in psychiatric institutions began, the occupational therapy turns its action towards the demands of its patients, to allow the psychosocial insertion through daily activities. It takes care of the residents' everyday life, their subjectivity, their interests; work on occupational performance areas, help the residents to develop new skills, and work on social insertion and establishment of new social bonds.

Conclusion: Residences are a service that has grown and are spread all over Brazil. They are committed with the social inclusion of citizens in the city that before had been taken off of them. It is a place of reconstruction of social and affective bonds, and the therapist works as a facilitator in the strategies to rescue the paper of the agent citizen in its process of treatment and its own life.

Contribution to the practice: The therapist occupies a fundamental place in Residences, contributing for the critical elaboration of the residents' everyday life and home, making it easier the passage from leaving the hospital and returning to society. In Belo Horizonte 65% of the Residences' supervisors are occupational therapists, which have shown their differential and their performance directed specifically to the routine of the house and to its residents.