

REDES COMUNITARIAS Y DERECHOS DE PARTICIPACIÓN DE LAS PERSONAS CON TRASTORNOS MENTALES SEVEROS (TMS) Communitarian Networks and Social Participation of Persons with Severe Mental Disorders

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The present study describes the experience as students of our final year of our bachelor's degree of Occupational Therapy as part of a new clinical practice in community networking. We intervened with patients with Severe Mental Disorders at San Martín, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Only two Occupational Therapists were working in the public domain at the time one at the **Curaduría Oficial de Alienados** (COA) under the Judiciary System's responsibility. The other at **Pichón Riviere Day Hospital** attached to the Municipality.

This practice promote the roles of possible interventions of Occupational Therapists in Health field, social and special education programs, supporting the creation of professional areas in institutions with the participation of Occupational Therapy Professors at the Council of Disability of the Municipality.

It focused on giving students technical and operational tools to learn about the health and daily life conditions of the specified population, to gain knowledge of active offers of health and education provided by the Municipality, provide opportunities of social networking where the patients with disabilities can be accommodated. Develop a plan of professional intervention in local institutions; participate actively in therapeutic work schemes for people with disabilities living in the community.

It involved the articulation of social, economic, educational and health aspects (RBC) through individual and/ or group (other patients) interventions, at home or in the community (bars, gas stations, care centers). Included the use of available resources of the Department (networks) which was continually challenged by trying to ensure the process of integrations of outpatients that are in the community.

Occupational Therapy contributes to implement different strategies to facilitate the equalization of opportunities, minimize the disadvantages to the satisfaction of the patient. It is then, a strategy that invites to explore and achieve meaningful occupations that bring moments of expression of ideas, review and exchange of individual and group, which tries to help the patient to gradually get in a normal life socially and professionally, to lead their lives as best as possible since it provides social and vocational training, occupational patterns of behavior and social assistance for the resolution of economic problems.