University Education in Mental Health in Argentina.

Adequacy of existing curricula to Recommendations for Universities related to the National Mental Health and Addictions Law No. 26.657

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The National Law on Mental Health and Addictions is based in...

- Community Mental Health tradition
- Human rights perspective

Helps overcoming the tutelar paradigm and stigma of imprisonment - danger - madness - medicalization
Recommendations for Universities related to Mental Health derived from National Law on Mental Health and Addictions.

Four main dimensions:
1) Human rights perspective
2) Interdiscipline and intersectoriality
3) Social inclusion
4) Public health

Guidelines for the improvement of the training of professionals in Mental Health

Reaches the professions of Law, Nursing, Medicine, Psychology and Social Work.
Main Objective

Characterize the adequacy of current curricula of undergraduate degree programs involved in the field of mental health, to the “Guidelines for the improvement of the training of professionals in Mental Health”.

Law implementation processes require consistent actions. In order to make viable the implementation of the mentioned law is necessary to

1. Review of knowledge and practices.

2. Training professionals on community, interdiscipline, and intersectoral work.

3. Provide adequate health resources.
Law No. 26.657

Participatory processes

Open discussion of Law and Reglamentation → National Mental Health Plan → Construction of the “Recommendations” document
Professional Associations
(Argentinian Association of Occupational Therapy took part)

HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Clients’ Associations

Universities involved in Education of Mental Health professions.
(Universidad Nacional de Lanús took part)

Families and relatives’ Associations
Methodology

**Design**
Exploratory, descriptive and qualitative.

**Sample**
Universities, careers, and curricula of Law, Nursing, Medicine, Psychology, Occupational Therapy and Social Work.

**Sources and Instruments**
Sistematyc observation of documentary sources (curricula, programs, and Recommendation document)

**Processing and data analysis**
Content and discourse analysis. Triangulation of programmes and interviews with qualified and key informants.
The adaptation of the study plans to the Recommendations of the Law No 26.657, is different considering the discipline, year of the study plan, and theoretical perspectives of the career as a hole (i.e. programmes of religious universities, careers with human rights approach, etc.)
Preliminary Results

Data collection started with the analysis of 102 courses. It was found greater adequacy in the careers of Medicine and Nursing, specially in updated study plans.

Occupational Therapy courses include Mental Health contents in various subjects.

OT courses show that human rights perspective is different among courses, interdiscipline is included in basic contents, but not always intersectoriality. Social inclusion is addressed in some subjects but not indicated as basic contents.
Conclusions

• It is essential that OT courses adequately their curricula to the Guidelines to assist in full implementation for Mental Health Law

• Need to work towards the profession being recognized as a profession that grants the public interest.
THANK YOU

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