“Practical guide for the organization of a comprehensive drug dependency treatment system”

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Drug abuse in the hemisphere is a serious problem
Drug Abuse and its Consequences in the Hemisphere

- Growing demand for drugs
- Lack of national epidemiological studies
- Deficient treatment services
- The effectiveness of treatment programs is not evaluated

Drug-related Disorders

The effects of drugs on users:

- Immediate
- Short-term
- Medium-term
- Long-term
Drug use disorders are:

- Complex
- Chronic
- Costly
- Detrimental to the quality of life
- Overwhelming the response capacity of traditional services

TREATMENT (GOALS)

- Stopping drug use
- Maintaining abstinence
- Recovering full functional capacity
Characteristics of Treatment Supply in the Hemisphere:

- Inadequate response to the needs of the population
- Inadequate political, legal, and technical framework
- Inadequate resources and management control mechanisms

Treatment should be:

- Accessible
- Comprehensive
- Motivational
- Adapted to needs
- Coordinated
Treatment is a priority area, and guidelines should be designed to ensure that the population’s needs will be met.

Having sufficient knowledge of the factors entering into the quality of customer service.
Requisites:

- Organizational strategies to optimize the quality of treatment services
- Better knowledge of supply and demand
- A technical and legal frame of reference for treatment

CICAD/OAS lines of action in the area of treatment
Hemispheric policy guidelines for demand reduction
Group of Experts on Demand Reduction and Working Group on Treatment
Institutional strengthening
Publications
Legal and regulatory framework

Institutional strengthening for the coordination of treatment activities
n Assistance in the design and application of standards
  u Care
  u Quality
  u Registration of programs
n Assistance in the development of treatment systems

Recommendations of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction for a national drug abuse treatment policy
Each government should:

Establish as a goal of the treatment system: restoring persons with substance abuse disorders to full personal, social, and economic functionality.

Each government should:

- Establish a corpus of human rights with respect to privacy and confidentiality for individuals calling upon the continuum of services provided for the treatment of substance abuse.
Each government should:

- Establish a national policy on substance abuse treatment
- Design a National Treatment Agency with responsibility for implementing this policy

Each government should:

Include the following aspects in its National Treatment Plan:
- International diagnostic classification system
- Expansion of treatment capacity
- Coordinated levels of care
- The inclusion of public and private (NGO) resources
- Minimum standards of care and professional qualifications for treatment providers
- Registration of establishments
Treatment of drug abuse and dependency and national drug strategies

- Demand reduction: key drug strategy component
- Treatment: part of the national strategy
- Coordination among different sectors
- Intrinsic value of treatment supply
- Access to treatment: right to health and quality of life
Why have a National Treatment System?

National Treatment System:

- Assessing needs and the resources available to address them
- Improving the quality of treatment services
- Financing and organization of services
Areas of progress in developing a national treatment system

Coordination of treatment services

Integrated:
- Bio-psycho-social
- Public-Private
- Among sectors (health and other)
Decentralization

- National
- Regional
- Local

Development of the treatment component within the national plans

Identification of key actors:
- Governmental
- Nongovernmental
Promotion of treatment services
Guidance on treatment for drug users and the general public

Work with the countries

Peru
Ecuador
Venezuela
El Salvador
Dominican Republic
Paraguay
Uruguay
Progress in the countries

- Minimum Standards of Care
- Treatment Systems
- Treatment Components in National Antidrug Strategies

Specific recommendations

- Integrate drug dependence treatment services with the general health care system
- Define minimum standards of care
- Provide guidance for treatment teams on organizational and regulatory aspects
Thank you!