“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
n Promotion of treatment services
n 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!