

## **Progresses in the implementation of policies and actions in the field of disability and mental health**

In 2002 the Ministry of Health regulated the National Health Policy for People with Disabilities and established a psychosocial care network in substitution of psychiatric hospitals in the entire Brazilian territory besides establishing guidelines and norms for hospital care. Since then we have witnessed important advances in both areas. The texts of this thematic number describe these advances; point out challenges and contradictions and present new themes for discussion.

We open the debate situating the major problems related to the field of disability in their interconnection with the mental health area and in the context of poverty and violence in Latin America. The text of Liliâne Bernardes and collaborators continues this debate, showing that the government needs to apply bioethical criteria in the distribution and allocation of public funds for people with disabilities in order to protect the more vulnerable among them.

Several studies and investigations in the field of disability give visibility to important problems. One investigation gives the dimension of the difficulties for people with special care needs to have access to the Primary Care Units in seven Brazilian states. Two texts present the impact of violence and violation of rights of children and youth with disabilities and describe the social representations for rights and violence in Rio de Janeiro. Specific topics addressed in this number are, among others, autism seen from the perspective of neurological diversity, adolescence in mentally disabled from the parents' point of view and a study about mortality from epilepsy in Brazil over the last two decades.

Returning to the studies of Michel Foucault, Sandra Caponi analyzed several interpretations of madness of this author, verifying in which ways old instruments of power are still present in the psychiatric discourse. Several articles focused on the Brazilian Psychiatric Reform, based on a progressive substitution of the hospital-centered model and on the construction of a substitutive psychosocial care network. Two papers present the resonances of this reform in small and medium-sized cities and a diagnosis of the psychiatric reform in cities of the Alto Uruguai. The challenges of primary care as a complementary care modality in the field of mental health were discussed in two texts.

Healthcare was analyzed from different perspectives. Mental care was studied from the point of view of networks and psychosocial rehabilitation. The deadlocks and challenges of the Family Health Program were studied; several other investigations focused on the advantages of the home-based therapeutic service and the accompanying therapeutic care and on the action of the psychiatrist, the community health agent, the psychologist and the physiotherapist. The treatment of depression in the elderly, the prevalence of psychic syndromes, prevention of drug abuse and stress in certain professions (police and professionals of the transportation sector) were issues addressed in five papers. We finalize with one study about the fragility of the Health Councils in regard to mental health.

This thematic number presents a panoramic view of the major advances made and problems faced in the field of disability and mental health, analyzing the implementation of policies, knowledge and practices in the context of health reforms in accordance with the guidelines of the Brazilian Health System.

Fátima Gonçalves Cavalcante e Edward Goldson

***Guest Editors***