



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



40th DIRECTING COUNCIL

49th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 22 - 26 September 1997

RESOLUTION

CD40.R19

MENTAL HEALTH

THE 40th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having seen the report on mental health (Document CD40/15);

Taking into account that the mental health care needs of the population are growing as a result of the demographic and social changes under way in the Region of the Americas and the widening scope of the field of mental health;

Aware of the existence of technologies that make it possible to control psychiatric disorders; and

Considering that actions for the promotion of mental health and the psychosocial development of children complement those promoted by the World Summit for Children,

RESOLVES

1. To urge the Member States to:

(a) formulate and implement national mental health programs as an integral component of national health plans and within the framework of health sector reform;

(b) intensify support for efforts to reorient mental health services from an institutional to a community approach, in keeping with the initiative for the restructuring of psychiatric care described in Document CD40/15;

- (c) actively promote and support the inclusion of mental health services in every health insurance or payment plan and every health care services program;
 - (d) develop programs for the treatment of affective disorders, epilepsies, and psychoses;
 - (e) strengthen or carry out actions for the promotion of mental health and the psychosocial development of children, with special emphasis on the early years;
 - (f) support training for the managers of mental health programs in the schools of public health;
 - (g) make efforts to improve the legislation that protects the human rights of persons with mental disabilities;
 - (h) declare 10 October World Mental Health Day/Pan American Mental Health Day;
 - (i) increase the appropriations for mental health training.
2. To request the Director to:
- (a) continue technical cooperation with the countries and intensify it, as financial resources permit;
 - (b) continue supporting the inclusion of mental health topics in all health forums and activities, and in joint activities with other agencies of the inter-American system;
 - (c) express the Organization's appreciation for the generous collaboration being provided by European regions and communities, and its thanks to the WHO Collaborating Centers in the Region;
 - (d) support programs to train leaders specializing in mental health.

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