

Microaree: health and community development. Experiences of socio-health integration

Session: Developing healthcare systems to meet the needs of community populations

INTRODUCTION

The project Microaree aims to reduce the dissociation between international declarations and local practices, optimize efforts for maintaining people at home; raise the appropriateness in the use of drugs and diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative services; develop solidarity mechanisms and strengthen relations between people; promote and spread good practices. It develops in urban areas with higher socio-economic and health problems: older people, many monocomponent families, low income, a greater number of persons with disabilities or followed for mental disorder or addictions.

PURPOSE/METHODS

This project was developed through several stages:

- data collection of services provided to citizens in the most fragile and problematic areas of Trieste, then defined Microaree;
- definition of objectives and actions to be taken;
- preparation of maps of resources and maps of main problems;
- appointment of a representative for each Microarea, which becomes the liaison with District and other services and agencies operating in the area in the field of health;
- enhancement potential resources such as family, neighborhood and community.

RESULTS

- Progressive and continue reduction of hospitalization of residents in Microarea;
- Lower increase of secondary care expenditure;
- Greater reduction in pharmaceutical spending;
- 25,000 services/year for 2000 users. Of these: 80% at home, 40% performances strictly sanitary and 60% interventions to support the person;
- Project Making Health: publication of 11 volumes of stories and tales of diseases in the field of community medicine that highlight health and social good practices.

CONCLUSIONS

There's growing evidence that non-medical determinants of health affect the possibility of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and accessibility to services. This project enhances strategies for health promotion, making people more able to control and improve their health, thus acting individual and community empowerment. The project aims to meet standard 1 and 5. It involves about 20000 inhabitants and several institutions, such as Municipality of Trieste and Territorial Agency for Residential Building and many third sector organization, working in network.

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