

# Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit



May 2007

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The Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is issued with the purpose of informing about important advances, news and publications in the areas of mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation and the protection of human rights within this context. In particular, the Bulletin focuses on those activities related to the technical assistance provided by PAHO/WHO to different actors in the Region. We hope it will become a useful tool for all those working in this important field of public health all over the Americas.

*The Unit Team*

*“Transcultural Mental Health in a Changing World: Building a Global Response”  
2007 Official Motto  
10<sup>th</sup> October, “World Mental Health Day”*



*National University of Córdoba, Argentina  
Pan American Health Organization*

*Inauguration of the Diploma Course in Mental  
Health*



This course is co-organized by the Institute of Mental Health of the School of Public Health of the National University of Córdoba, Argentina, and the Pan American Health Organization, through the Subregional Advisor on Mental Health for South America.

The purpose of the course is the updating of professionals and other health workers in the field of community mental health. The emphasis is laid on the need to develop and strengthen processes of psychiatric reform by providing resources and tools to favor, both, field workers and managerial personnel.

The training activities will be centered in the acquisition of the knowledge and skills included in the WHO-AIMS (an instrument for service evaluation). The course consists of seven modules, which require class attendance. It is intended for professionals from different fields, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses and social workers, among others; both, from the public and the private sectors, as well as from multiple institutions working in the field of health, education and human development.

This training course joins the one offered in the Province of Mendoza by the Direction of Mental Health of the Ministry of Health, together with PAHO, with the aim of strengthening the mental health community-based services, promoted by the local government, and its contents are based on WHO's "Mental Health Policy and Service Guidance Package".

Dr Jorge Rodriguez, the Unit Chief, and Dr Hugo Cohen, PAHO's Sub-regional Advisor for Mental Health, were present at the ceremony, which was held in the city of Córdoba, Argentina, last March.



# Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit

*News about the application of WHO-AIMS in Central America and the Hispanic Caribbean*

*Dr Victor Aparicio*

*PAHO'S Sub-regional Adviser on Mental Health for Mexico, Central America, and the Hispanic Caribbean*

Data collection through WHO-AIMS has ended in the Dominican Republic and Honduras, thus enabling the assessment of the current situation of mental health services in both countries. Likewise, the implementation of the WHO-AIMS was started in Costa Rica last April.

Those countries which have already analyzed their situation using the WHO-AIMS, are now planning the next stages in the process and are programming national workshops for the re-orientation and revision of their mental health plans and policies. Panama held the Workshop in February and El Salvador has organized one for April. Guatemala and different actors involved in the issue have reached an agreement on a document that will serve as basis for the 2007-2015 Mental Health Policy.

These advances will be analyzed during the next Subregional Meeting which will be held in Panama 17-19 September 2007

## REGIONAL MEETING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND REHABILITATION UNIT

It was held at PAHO's Headquarters, in Washington DC, between April 16th and 17th. All the members of the Unit and Advisors from other areas within PAHO attended the meeting. The agenda was based on the updating of the technical cooperation activities of the Unit in its different programs and spheres.

Experts from PAHO/WHO participated in the debate about the Mental Health Law in Argentina

<http://www.onu.org.ar/onu/hindex.aspx?NOTICIA.8.16.109>

<http://www.ops.org.ar/>



<http://www.wpanet.org/bulletin/eb48sp.html>

WPA Educational Program:  
*Teaching and Learning about Schizophrenia*  
[English Version](#)

APALenaccion.org  
Website oficial  
de APAL

Latin American  
Psychiatric  
Association

*2007 Events in Latin America*

<http://www.apalenaccion.com/contenido.asp?a=9&z=6>



Psiquiatría  
Sur

On-line Community  
Psychiatry

PAHO Dissemination  
Partner

*This Web page is  
dedicated to the field of  
Community Mental  
Health, with multiple  
links to sites related to  
the subject.*

Community  
Library

Forums/Blog

Director:  
Rafael Sepúlveda  
Psychiatrist

[www.psiquiatriasur.cl](http://www.psiquiatriasur.cl)

(In Spanish only)



WFSAD's  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
2007  
Newsletter

2007  
International  
Conference –  
Lighting the  
Path: Hope  
in Action.

[http://www.world-schizophrenia.org/publications/news\\_2007\\_Q2.pdf](http://www.world-schizophrenia.org/publications/news_2007_Q2.pdf)  
<http://www.world-schizophrenia.org/>

## Coming EVENTS

-WPA Thematic Conference: Coercive Treatment in Psychiatry, June 6-8, 2007, Dresden, Germany  
[www.wpa2007dresden.org](http://www.wpa2007dresden.org)

-VI Simposio Internacional "Aspectos Biológicos y Farmacoterapéuticos de los Trastornos Mentales", La Habana, Cuba, June 18-22, 2007, [ccunp@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:ccunp@infomed.sld.cu)

- Congreso Latinoamericano de Adicciones: Adicciones un Desafío a la Mente", Medellín, Colombia, July 26-29, 2007, [congresoalad2007@gmail.com](mailto:congresoalad2007@gmail.com)

-World Mental health Congress, "Impact of Culture on Mental Health: East meets West", Hong Kong SAR China, August 19-23, 2007, [www.wmhc2007.com](http://www.wmhc2007.com)

-WPA Regional Meeting Shanghai, China  
September 20-23, 2007, <http://www.wpa2007shanghai.com>

-WPA Regional Meeting Buenos Aires, Argentina  
XIV Congress of the Argentinean Association of Psychiatrists,  
September 24-27, 2007, <http://www.aap.org.ar>

-WFSAD 2007 International Conference – Lighting the Path: Hope in Action. Toronto Canada, September 28-30.  
<http://www.world-schizophrenia.org/>

-20th Annual USA Psychiatric and Mental Health Congress  
Orlando, Florida, USA, October 11-14, 2007  
[www.cmellc.com/psychcongress](http://www.cmellc.com/psychcongress)

- WPA International Congress, "Working Together for Mental Health: Partnerships for Policy and Practice", Melbourne, Australia, Nov 28 – Dec 2, 2007  
<http://www.wpa2007melbourne.com>