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PET-Health as a lifelong learning device: a descriptive study

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ABSTRACT

General aim: to evaluate whether PET-Health has been constituted as a possibility with regard to continuing education for professionals/preceptors employed by the health services. **Specific aims:** to identify and characterize the actions of Pet-Health, recognized by preceptors as a form of continuing education. **Method:** This is a descriptive and evaluative study using a qualitative approach, to be undertaken in mental health services that make use of PET experience in Niterói/RJ. For data collection, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with professionals who act as PET-HEALTH preceptors in the mental health network. Information processing will be based on content analysis. At the end of this study, benefits pointing to the power that shapes PET-Health with regard to continuing education are expected.

Descriptors: Education, Continuing; Preceptorship; Health Education.

PROBLEM SITUATION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The care model recommended by the Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS) (Unified Health System) has been consolidated through many changes of paradigms. It increasingly aims to serve the population in a comprehensive manner. This requires health professionals involved with the historical and social context of users to act as transformers of the health-disease process. In this regard, in 2008 the Ministry of Health, together with the Ministry of Education, implemented a new strategy for the training of qualified professionals working in the SUS: the Education Program for Working in Health (PET-Health). Regulated by Inter-ministerial Ordinance No. 421 (03/03/2010), PET-Health, together with the National Program for the Reorientation of Vocational Training in Health - PRO-HEALTH - aims to strengthen strategies for the SUS according to its principles, and aims to consolidate the teaching-service-community integration, thereby contributing to professional training in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary way⁽¹⁾. PET relates to the qualification of both students and professionals in terms of its approach to daily care in the health services, in those places in which training occurs⁽²⁾. It is a training device anchored in the Continuing Education Policy in Health⁽³⁾ that supports the concept of apprenticeship as an approach which happens in the daily life of people and the health services. It means learning on the job, where learning and teaching are incorporated into the daily routine. Considering the integration between teaching and service, continuing education establishes cooperative relationships and relates to negotiations between the different actors in terms of changes in training, affecting managers, health workers, educational institutions, students, and users⁽³⁾. The PET-Health is a new and innovative

strategy in the field of health education and it affects professional staff who have opted for a dynamic training approach to work in the field of health. It uses continuing education as a tool to seek to build a more effective public health system, breaking with historical and traditional patterns of the teaching-learning process. It is therefore necessary to create assessment tools that can relate to the technologies adopted by PET-Health and can assess the impact of such an approach on the training of professionals/preceptors arising from the program, thus justifying the relevance of this study.

GUIDING QUESTION

Is PET-Health constituted as a permanent education strategy for SUS professionals who act as preceptors?

GENERAL AIM

To assess the possibility of PET-Health being a form of permanent education with regard to professionals/preceptors employed in the health services.

SPECIFIC AIMS

Identify the continuing education actions of PET-Health; characterize the PET-Health actions recognized by preceptors as constituting continuing education.

METHOD

This is a descriptive study using a qualitative approach, carried out within public mental

health services that make use of the PET experience in Niterói/RJ. Data will be collected by means of semi-structured interviews with nine professionals who act as PET-Health preceptors. For selecting participants, the following inclusion criteria will be adopted: to be a healthcare professional from the public health care sector in the city of Niterói; to be acting as a PET preceptor. The exclusion criterion is: to be a volunteer mentor of the program. Data collection took place between August and October 2015. The processing of information will involve thematic analysis. The data obtained will be arranged in order to favor the identification of theme analyzers. This study was approved by the CEP according to the resolution 466/12 under No. 209,321.

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