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Conference Abstract

Is the performance of an Integrated Mental Health Network related to its readiness for chronicity and/or structures?

Nuria Toro, Senior Researcher, Basque Institute for Healthcare Innovation (O+Berri), Spain

Mr. Roberto Nuño Solinís, Director of the Basque Institute of Healthcare Innovation

Mr. Carlos Pereira Rodriguez, Director of Bizkaia Mental Health Network (BMHN)

Mrs. Monica Lopez Ortiz, Deputy Director of Innovation of Bizkaia Mental Health Network (BMHN)

Prof. Luis Salvador-Carulla, MD, PhD, University of Sydney, Australia

Mr. Jose Alberto Salinas, Ph D, Researcher at Department of Social Work, Sociology and Psicology. Loyola Andalucia University

Correspondence to: **Nuria Toro**, Senior Researcher, Basque Institute for Healthcare Innovation (O+Berri), Spain, Phone: +34 665724385, E-mail: Toro@bioef.org

Abstract

Introduction: Mental health is one of the areas in which integrated care is so relevant due to the great number of organisations that are involved in its provision: primary care, acute care, mental health centres, psychiatric hospitals, NGOs, social organisations,...Evaluation is key in order to know whether structures and processes are well coordinated among all the agents and patients are adequately approached and cared. The Bizkaia Mental Health Network (BMHN) has designed its Atlas of the mental health care system of Bizkaia (Basque Country) using the DESDE-2.0 methodology[1] so that all services for persons with mental health have been mapped. Structure and capacity are necessary but not enough inputs when it comes to achieving proactive, efficient and coordinated care. For that reason, the information stemming from the Atlas should be combined with information about its readiness to undertake processes to provide integrated care to cope with the challenge of mental health chronicity and with information on the expected outcomes for its patient populations so that an integral vision of the organisation can be drawn.

Objective: To undertake a comprehensive evaluation scheme in the four geographical areas that make the Bizkaia Mental Health Network following the Donabedian evaluation principles based on structure, processes and outcomes.

Methods: "Structure" is going to be assessed with the information provided by the Atlas based on DESDE-2.0 methodology for each geographical area. To get information about "Processes" and readiness to provide integrated care, the ARCHO-IEMAC [2,3] instrument will be used. ARCHO (Assessment of Readiness for Chronicity in Health Care Organisations)-IEMAC is based on the "Chronic Care Model" and allows self-assessment of healthcare organisations with respect to their degree of readiness to provide integrated care; it has proven to work adequately in the mental

health context. The self-assessment process will be carried out by the management team of each area in collaboration with O+berri experts. “Outcomes” will take into account relevant performance indicators related to mental health patients, professionals and the system.

Results: The combination of information stemming from different assessment tools could provide us with useful insights on the better way to get the expected results in patients, professionals and the system in the mental health context. Ideally, correlations between structure-processes and outcomes could guide us in the identification of the necessary policies and strategies to be able to cope with the challenge of chronicity in mental health.

Keywords

mental health, DESDE-LTC, ARCHO-IEMAC, framework, Basque country

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