

RESIDENTIAL HOMES for mentally ill people

Definition: residential services for mentally ill people who have reached a partial level of autonomy but keep needing external support at the end of their therapeutic-rehabilitative program

Aims: daycare and management of everyday life aimed at safeguarding the person and developing residual skills or even at experimenting life outside the family

Values:

- A holistic (bio-psycho-social) approach to mental illness
- Hospitalization makes mental illness chronic instead of treating, curing or, at least easing it
- Mentally ill people pose no danger to society
- Services must be easily accessible, truly part of the local community and tailor to users' needs
- Users' empowerment, ie. their involvement in setting therapeutical goals and methods

Responsibility for Planning: Regional Govt.
through allocation of resources and definition
of standards

Responsibility for Delivery: LHA's
through the Local Social and Health Services
Plan agreed with municipalities

Responsibility for Running: LHA's or NGO's or
both

Responsibility for Paying: LHA's (40%)+ User &
Municipality (60%)

Standards:

- At least 1 Residential Home every 50.000 inhabitants
- 6 to 10 beds; max 2 beds per room
- 1 staff every 2 users
- Staff: nurses and care givers + planned intervention by psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker and educator
- Responsible: psychologist-psychotherapist
- 12 hrs per day, not necessarily at night

- Freedom of movement for users
- Possibility for users to personalize individual and common spaces
- At least 1 wardrobe per user
- Attention to users' social integration exploiting the resources of the community
- Daily schedule based on users' needs and habits
- Families' involvement in activities planning
- Duration: max 36 months,

Some Data:

- 66 Residential Homes, ie. 19% of all community-based services
- 468 beds, ie. 15% of all beds in community-based services
- Average cost per day: € 100,00

Relevant Legislation:

- Regional Plan on Mental Health 2010-12
- Regional Standards for Accreditation of Mental Health Services (2008)
- National & Regional Definition of Minimum standards for Health care (2001)
- National Mental Health Plan (1998-2000)
- National Mental Health Act (1978)