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Matrix support in the vision of speech therapists in Campinas municipal health network

Bruna Gabriela Mechi Silva*, Irani Rodrigues Maldonade.

Abstract

Campos (2007) define matrix support as a work methodology that offers assistance, technical and pedagogical knowledge to the health center's reference team. It intends increase the possibilities of extended clinic and promote integration among health professionals providing a communication space that enable the health professionals sharing knowledges and building an interprofessional therapeutic project. The objective of this research is to know how matrix support in speech therapist area occurs in Campinas city, verifying if all speech therapists works in the same way, identifying the main proposal's benefits and disadvantages according to this professionals' vision.

Key words:

Speech therapy, public health, matrix support

Introduction

The speech therapist area in Campinas' municipal health secretariat began between 2004 and 2005. The study involved the speech therapists that execute matrix support in 5 health districts in Campinas, they are allocated in specialties ambulatory (Polyclinic II). Considering 5 health districts was expected 5 participants, although, currently, Campinas has only 4 speech therapists in Polyclinic. This research was approved by the Committee for Ethics in Research – Unicamp under no. 56881816.0.0000.5404 and also approved by the Campinas municipal health secretary. The data was collected through a semi-structure questionnaire and an individual interview with speech therapists participants, investigating how professionals were included in matrix support process, initial purposes, division of labor, first territory and health center contact, in addition to identify strategies for matrix support development and its implications on health network.

Results and Discussion

Speech therapy matrix support in Campinas occurs in health districts and includes a diversity of actions, than each therapist embraces a different working process. Was observed that interviewed professionals believed that matrix support has been permitting a clear idea of speech therapist care, resulting in referrals adequacy and optimizing solving problems. According to data, matrix support also seems to contribute to qualified wait queue throughout orientations, but matrix supporters frequency in health centers still irregular, goings range from mensal to trimensal, and some of the health centers has never been attended. Questionnaire indicates that the main challenges are the distance between speech therapists and primary health, once in Campinas they aren't expected in this sector. Also the reduced professional number imply a large workload and demand that the same speech therapists implement matrix support and clinic therapy.

Chart 1. Matrix supporters' actions

Conclusions

Speech therapy matrix support in this town is presented as a solution to organize speech therapy area. Professionals don't enjoy the idea of having a speech therapy area coordinator. Contribution in spreading speech therapists actions to others health professionals is significant, but still remain difficulties, once there are few speech therapists in Campinas public health network. It's still a problem to be solved.

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