

Development and new trends in the care for people with mental illness

Abstract:

The aim of my bachelor's thesis is to capture developments and new trends in the care for people with mental illnesses. In the introduction, I briefly specify the concept of mental illness and set the division of mental illnesses. Several selected diagnoses of mental illnesses, which are described here are based on professional literature, practical experience and available health statistics. The following is a description of the development of care for people with mental illnesses. From Ancient Times to the Middle Ages, society explained the existence of mental illnesses in humans as the action of supernatural forces. The care for people with mental illnesses was merely an exception during these historical periods. The situation of people with mental illnesses improved during the period of Enlightenment. With the development of medical science, society came to the conclusion that mental illnesses were caused by brain diseases. Psychiatry became a field of science with the first successful therapy treatments. Treatment began to be concentrated in mental institutions, later in psychiatric hospitals. This trend prevailed until the second half of the 20th century. Towards the end of the 20th century, the process of de-institutionalization of psychiatric care began. Social services such as Protected Housing or Support for Independent Housing, etc. were established. A new trend of the 21st century is Community Psychiatric Care provided in a natural environment. Mental health care centres are created, where multidisciplinary teams operate. Emphasis is placed on a partner approach in the process of recovery, the involvement of peer-workers and the de-stigmatisation of people with mental illnesses.