

P-590 - SITUATION OF FAMILIES OF MENTALLY ILL PERSONS IN A CONTEXT OF CHANGE IN MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM: A TIME FOR STAKEHOLDERS AND FAMILIES COLLABORATION

J.-P.Bonin¹, M.Lavoie-Tremblay², A.Lesage¹, C.Briand¹, M.Piat^{2,3}

¹Fernand Seguin Research Centre, University of Montreal, ²McGill University, ³Douglas Research Centre, Montreal, QC, Canada

Introduction: In 2005, the Government of Quebec (Canada) published a Mental Health Action Plan (MHAP) that was based on organizing within a hierarchy of services: primary, secondary and tertiary care and was supposed to involve families of persons with mental illness in the process of services' transformation.

Objectives: Knowing the perception of families of persons with mental illness of their situation, in a changing mental health system related to the Action Plan.

Methods: A randomized proportional sample of 1496 members of families in community organizations for families of people with mental disorders (T1) received a questionnaire and another one, 18 months later (T2).. Moreover, six groups of families (N=54) were interviewed, and again 18 months later.

Results: 33% of families knew that there was an Action Plan. 20% of family members said they had the opportunity to be involved in decisions regarding their loved one. 53% of them showed with high psychological distress; in general population this score is 20%. In group interviews, families said that: it was difficult for them to obtain services for their loved one and to talk to the psychiatrist because of the privacy legislation. They also need help when their loved one showw with aggressive behaviours (30%).

Conclusion: This project helped the families to be heard by stakeholders. The government is currently working on a new Action Plan that will involve more thoroughly the patient and his family. Our research team is currently starting a new project to help families dealing with aggressive behaviours.