

Psychology and the issue of networking in Social Assistance Policy in Brazil

Psicologia e a questão do trabalho em rede na Política de Assistência Social no Brasil

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Background

Considered one of the main mechanisms for acting in the National Social Assistance Policy (PNAS), networking consists of the articulation of social assistance services in order to carry out the protection work based on interdisciplinary actions and an integrated view about the individual social vulnerabilities. In this way, social assistance networks become, through the articulation of services, one of the means of confronting the expressions of social inequalities, access and defense of rights.

The social assistance network consists of the public offer of services, programs, projects and benefits provided by PNAS and articulated by the Unified Social Assistance System, aiming at social development and overcoming social exclusion. From networking, seeks to consolidate a perspective that integrates from more horizontal relationships, including the participation of society, community and families.

Based on the premises of that public policy, Psychology is provoked in terms of its theories and practices at the same time it is asked about his role in the context of social assistance.

Aims

The objective of the work is to investigate the concept of network, in order to observe how it is constituted and how it refers to the practices necessary for the fulfillment of the objectives of social assistance services and its relationship with a multi and interdisciplinary professional dynamic that it has as one of its components, the psychologist. For that, the views expressed about the theme in the documents produced by the Federal Council of Psychology (CFP) are analyzed to understand its articulation with the demands expressed by the Social Assistance policy.

Method & Procedures

As research methodology, the documents that parameterize the Social Assistance policy in Brazil regarding the conceptualization, importance and role of the psychologist in network articulation were analyzed. The investigated documents were divided into two groups: those produced by the defunct Ministry of Development and Fight against Hunger and others published by the Federal Council of Psychology (CFP). The study was conducted in three stages: the first stage is on the analysis of textbooks from the Ministry of Social Development (MDS) and the National Social Assistance Policy (PNAS), seeking to understand the context of policies and structures of the elements that guide psychology professional practices for service at SUAS in relation to networking. The second one consists of the analysis of the documents, manuals, booklets and guidelines of the CFP, investigating what is expected from the performance of the Psychology professional in the context of SUAS, using the clipping on the network work. And in the last one, a comparison was made of the intersectoral work guidelines for the psychologist's performance in the different documents.

Results & discussion

Comparing the views expressed about the role expected by the psychologist and his performance in the social assistance network, there is not much data on the issue in the MDS documents, making it imprecise which practices should be carried out in the social assistance network and in the community in general. In turn, in the CFP documents, the concept of the

network appears more frequently but its conceptualization is superficial. In both groups of documents, the challenges of articulation with the social assistance network and its complexities are shown. It is also pointed out the need for professionals to access the network to promote the potential of users, building modes of care through an interdisciplinary perspective.

Conclusion

As a conclusion, it is recommended to produce technical references that discuss more in depth about networking. In addition, we understand that the psychologist's work in this context implies the transversalization of practices and knowledge that lead to the construction of new ways of acting. Psychology must create new possibilities for political action that go beyond the limits of traditional practices so that, in this way, it is possible to create new spaces and situations that provoke the production of new subjectivities.

Keywords: networking, psychology, social work

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