

BEST PRACTICE MODELS

BEST PRACTICE MODELS for Continuing Care of Persons with Mental Disorders

[8] Long-term care

- a) Residential services
- b) Occupational and ancillary supports

[8 a] Residential services

A properly constituted residential treatment centre should offer a full-time program with treatment by qualified mental health staff and facilities including a high quality school program and recreational activities in addition to the appropriate therapies. The desirable features and method of working is well described in Lewis, M., Summerville, J.W., and Graffagnino, P.N. "Residential Treatment" in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, (Ed) Melvin Lewis, 3rdEd. (2002), Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, pp.1095-1100.

In general, it is thought that centres should be in locations readily accessible by families, should be open institutions whenever possible and as similar to normal life settings as practicable. It is recognized that other factors, such as the need for juvenile justice containment, will have a modifying influence on the characteristics of centres. Facilities should be small, seldom exceeding 60 in capacity with 100 a maximum limit and should make provision for children to live in small groups. Private or shared bedrooms, separate showers and bath facilities for boys and girls, communal living rooms and dining rooms, safe and easy access to recreational facilities and classrooms, and therapists' offices close to the group living area are some of the requirements. Units serving specific age groups are preferred.

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