

Towards the reintegration of the chronic mentally ill: A pilot foster care programme

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A foster care, pilot programme has been functioning since 1998 in the context of rehabilitation services of the Department of Psychiatry / University of Athens, Eginition Hospital. Although planned to serve 10 chronic psychiatric patients, the programme has placed only five patients in foster families so far. This is due to the difficulty of the therapeutic team to find appropriate carers, within Athens greater area, provided that the financial benefits for them are rather low. Since a considerable clinical and functional improvement in four out of the five cases has been noticed by the multidisciplinary team, the authors suggest that this alternative scheme of residential rehabilitation could be tried more extensively and expand to urban and rural areas, according to the ongoing deinstitutionalisation policy in this country.

Keywords: *foster care, foster families, psychiatric patients.*

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