



SASLHA
South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Position Statement: Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

Ethics and Standards Committee 2011

Members:

F Bardien, B Sc(Log), UCT; M Audiology, US;
B Gerber, B Komm Pat, UP; M Sc (SLP), UCT;
G Jacklin, BA (Sp Hear Th), Wits;
D Lourens, B Spr Taal Gehoor Ter, US; Adv Dip Hear Aid Acoustics, UP;
L Pottas, B Log, UP; HED, Unisa; M Comm Path, UP; D Phil, UP;
M Soer, B Log, UP; Ph D, UP;
S Swart, M Sc (Log), UCT; DHSM, Wits; FAAA; FSASLHA (Chairperson)
H Wilkinson, B Log, UCT

Position Statement for Speech-Language Therapists working in Community Based Rehabilitation

Introduction

In most of the world community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is the primary means by which people with disability would have any chance of accessing rehabilitation services (Evans, Zinkin, Harpham, & Chaudury, 2001).

“The objectives of CBR are not only to maximise **physical** and **mental ability** but also to **support access** to regular services and opportunities and assist people with disabilities to actively **contribute to their own communities** as well as encouraging communities to promote and respect their **human rights**” (Hartley, Finkenflügel, Kuipers, & Thomas, 2009, p. 1803).

No comprehensive database of CBR implementation is available as yet in South Africa but emerging CBR networks indicate that there are 280 registered CBR programmes in 25 African countries (Adeoye & Hartley, 2008 as cited in Hartley et al., 2009).

Although there is growing research interest in CBR (i.e. theory, interventions, outcomes and evidence) (Hartley et al., 2009) one of the main criticisms is the lack of robust research data and/or systematic outcomes to inform and guide practice in this field (Finkelflugel, Wolffers & Huijsman, 2005).

The new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for community-based rehabilitation may be viewed as a response to this critique.

In place of a Guideline the Ethics and Standards Committee recommends that individuals and/or institutions that embark on community based rehabilitation should use the WHO guidelines and supporting documentation to inform clinical practice in that context.

Resources (internet links, documents)

<http://www.who.int/disabilities>

Community-Based Rehabilitation CBR Guidelines (2010).

Key references

Evans, P.J., Zinkin, P., Harpham, T., & Chaudury, G. (2001). Evaluation of medical rehabilitation in community based rehabilitation. *Social Science and Medicine*, 53, 333-348.

Finkenflügel, H., Wolffers, I., & Huijsman, R. (2005). The evidence based community-based rehabilitation: a literature review, *International Journal of Rehabilitation Research*, 28, 187-201.

Hartley, S., Finkenflügel, H., Kuipers, P., & Thomas, M. (2009). Community-based rehabilitation: opportunity and challenge. *The Lancet*, 374(9704), 1803-1804.
Retrieved from <http://www.proquest.umi.com>

