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Community Participation in a Family Health Team: Is a Joint Strategy Between Workers and Users Possible?

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Crevelim M. Participação da comunidade na equipe de saúde da família: é possível estabelecer um projeto comum entre trabalhadores e usuários? [Community Participation in a Family Health Team: Is a Joint Strategy Between Workers and Users Possible?]. *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil) 2005 April-June; 10(2): 323–331.

Objectives: To learn about the impact of teamwork on the Family Health Program, and whether it can foster community participation in a health program.

Methodology: Qualitative study using semi-structured interviews with workers and counselors at a health unit in the eastern part of the Municipality of São Paulo, and official Municipality Ministry of Health documents from 2001 and 2002. Interview content was analyzed using the following analytical categories; participation, social control, teamwork, and the health-illness process.

Results: Analyzing the interviews, the author found three dimensions related to participation: the right to health and citizenship; the presence of health care services, and the need for counselor training. In addition, health workers emphasized teamwork, but did not include users in their conceptualization and planning of health services.

Conclusions: The author concludes that progress in participation and teamwork are still not enough to ensure creation of a cooperative health project; that this should be the next step. She further concludes that the Family Health program has the potential to reinforce the relationship between users and health professionals.