

## LUC CIOMPI. RESUMEN

### Abstract:

"Soteria Berne" is a small open therapeutic community, specially devised for the treatment of young acute schizophrenic patients, which is operating successfully since 1984 until today. Basic concepts are rooted both in Loren Moshier's and Alma Menn's experience with a first Soteria house in California 1971-1981, and in the authors own research on long-term evolution, therapy and rehabilitation of schizophrenic patients under the impact of favorable and unfavorable emotional and environmental factors, conceptualized in his theory of "affect-logic". The overall aim of the combined milieu-therapeutic, psychotherapeutic and pharmacotherapeutic approach of Soteria Berne is the creation of a sustained emotional relaxation in an atmosphere of emotional security, personal and conceptual continuity and constant human "being with" the acute psychotic patient. Clinical experience over 2 1/2 decades and comparative prospective 2-years outcome research show that this approach achieves similar or better results on the psychopathological and social level than conventional hospital treatments, with considerable lower doses of neuroleptics and lower overall costs. The subjective experience of patients and families is generally less traumatic and often beneficial in the long run. These observations are significant in the context of current psychosocial and biological notions on schizophrenia and its developmental dynamics