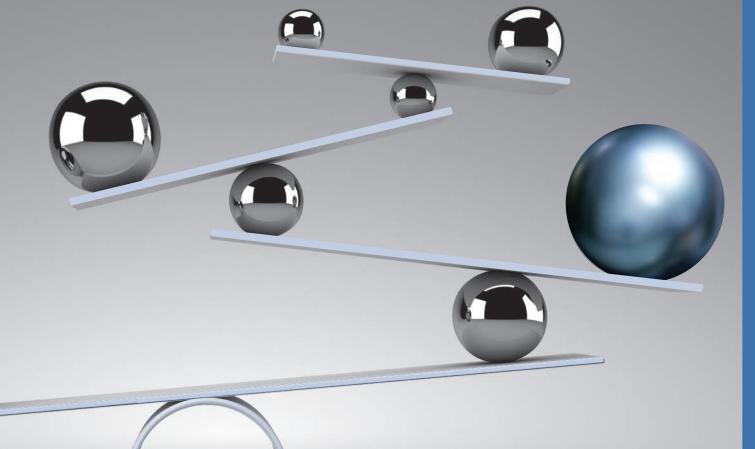


2021ANNUAL REPORT





STRIVING FOR BALANCE

2021 STRIVING FOR BALANCE



Dear Colleague:

Between progress and setbacks, 2021 found us all striving for balance. The ongoing challenges of COVID-19 were balanced by the hope offered by the vaccines amid a growing acceptance of a new reality.

At NCCHC, many of the changes we made during the first year of the pandemic, and our quick response to that crisis, are proving to have lasting benefits to our constituents. We were able to quickly pivot to virtual accreditation surveys,

cyber-conferences, and online certification exams, and in 2021, we incorporated those changes into our standard operations to more effectively serve the field.

I remain astonished at the dedication, flexibility, and strength of character of the incredible correctional health professionals we work with and support. You are an inspiration in these trying times.

I look forward to more health, success, and balance moving into the future.

On behalf of everyone at NCCHC, thank you for all you do!

Deborah Ross, CCHP

Chief Executive Officer

NCCHC MISSION

The mission of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care is to improve the quality of health care in jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities.



2021 A YEAR OF UPS AND DOWNS

It was a roller coaster of a year, dizzying, disorienting, and whiplash-inducing.

It started on a hopeful note with the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines ... and ended with a disheartening surge caused by the highly contagious omicron variant. In between there were vaccine controversies, mask-mandate battles, supply chain disruptions, staff shortages, and ongoing fears.

During the Summer Olympics, American champion gymnast Simone Biles dropped out of several events after experiencing "the twisties" during a balance beam routine. She described the feeling as not knowing where her head was or where the ground was.

IN 2021 WE ALL HAD A BIT OF THE "TWISTIES." The year challenged us to keep our equilibrium despite the relentless demands of the pandemic. We balanced hope and despair, optimism and worry, progress and setbacks, celebration and heartache.

But we persevered, balancing our patients' physical and mental health needs, caring for those who were ill while vaccinating as many as possible, moving into a new normal that has not yet come into focus.

NCCHC continued to support our constituents with a balance of live and virtual events, surveys, and exams. We provided guidance about the pandemic and shared lessons learned. And we continued to tackle other critical issues in the field that desperately need attention.



CREATING A BALANCE BETWEEN LIVE AND VIRTUAL

THE NEED FOR EDUCATION, A FOCUS ON QUALITY, AND THE DEMAND FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

with correctional health care's current challenges. Having mastered virtual delivery of our programs and services during the first year of the pandemic, the protection provided by COVID vaccines in 2021 allowed NCCHC to offer a balanced, hybrid approach to education, accreditation, and certification.



Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the Spring Conference on Correctional Health Care was held completely free of charge to attendees. The two-day virtual event, designed as a way to thank the field for its hard work and dedication, attracted more than 8,900 participants.

The 45th annual National Conference was held live and in-person for the first time in two years, with close to 1,000 attendees traveling to Chicago for the occasion. Community and camaraderie were balanced with strict safety protocols – proof of vaccination or a recent negative test, masks, and limited capacities – to create a safe and memorable gathering.

Many who were not able to travel participated in a Virtual Fall Conference that featured sessions from the National Conference plus online-exclusive content.

Regularly scheduled webinars, including a four-part series for correctional nurse managers, and the virtual Correctional Mental Health Care Conference rounded out the year's very popular educational offerings.

virtual conferences

live conference

▮ ▮ webinars

11,300 conference and webinar attendees

CREATING A BALANCE BETWEEN LIVE AND VIRTUAL



As correctional facilities continued to battle COVID-19, the accreditation department responded by offering a variety of survey methods: traditional on-site surveys, virtual surveys that were developed in response to the pandemic, and blended or hybrid surveys in which at least one surveyor is on-site and the rest of the team is virtual.

That flexibility allowed surveyors to complete a backlog of surveys that had been postponed during 2020, while also granting initial accreditation to the highest number of facilities in the past 10 years.

The CCHP program responded to the growing demand for professional development and training by offering a choice of live and virtual testing options, with 24/7 access from home or office for the most convenience.

That range of options may have contributed to the record-breaking number of correctional health professionals who applied to take the exam this year – more than ever before in CCHP history.

THE NO-LONGER-SO-NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AGAIN DOMINATED THE CORRECTIONAL HEALTH LANDSCAPE

in 2021, while also exacerbating persistent problems like opioid use and overdose, mental health issues, suicide, and racial disparities. NCCHC continued to advise and educate the field on those pervasive issues while also providing guidance on the ongoing pandemic.

"NCCHC supports vaccination plans that prioritize correctional health professionals, custody and support staff, and incarcerated individuals as candidates for vaccination."

Position Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Correctional Settings, 2021

When supplies of the COVID vaccines were limited early in the year, NCCHC published a position statement advocating that individuals housed in jails, prisons, and other confinement settings, as well as people who work in those settings, be put at the front of the line for vaccination – a public health imperative.

Throughout the year, NCCHC supported the field with thought leadership and targeted education about COVID's medical, behavioral, and legal ramifications, including clinical care, new therapies, vaccine hesitancy, telehealth/ telepsychiatry, variants, nursing issues, implications for mental health and suicide, and coping strategies for battling burnout.



Deaths from opioid overdose have reached an all-time high during the pandemic. NCCHC is doing its part to stop that trend through ongoing outreach, advocacy, and education on the critical need for medications for opioid use disorder in correctional settings. A newly revised position statement highlights the benefits of providing MOUD to people in custody and recommends that jails and prisons enact specific steps to ensure access to and continuity of treatment. Another position statement, Naloxone in Correctional Facilities for the Prevention of Opioid Overdose Deaths, supports increased access to and use of the overdose-reversing drug both during incarceration and after release.

MOUD-Related Collaborations

- Creating an evidence-based set of guidelines for withdrawal management in jail settings in partnership with the American Society for Addiction Medicine and an expert advisory committee of clinical and jail personnel. This NCCHC Foundation project is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance through a \$300,000 subcontract managed by Advocates for Human Potential, Inc., a BJA Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program technical assistance and training provider.
- Advising new leaders at the Office of National Drug Control Policy about barriers to MOUD and other concerns of the correctional health community.
- Conducting a survey of accredited jails to better understand their experiences when implementing MOUD programs and treating OUD patients.
- Publishing "From the General Public to America's Jails: MAT Saves Lives," a white paper that
 highlights the role of jails in providing MOUD as a critical treatment strategy. This NCCHC
 Foundation project was funded by Indivior as a Gold Partner in the foundation's Partners in
 Correctional Health Annual Giving Society.



25%

increase in number
of NCCHC-accredited opioid
treatment programs over
previous year

As COVID dragged on into its second year, the world struggled to balance glimmers of hope against ongoing fear, uncertainty, and despair. Perhaps no one understood this more than correctional health professionals, who struggled to help their vulnerable patients while the demands of their work reached new heights.

Fortunately, NCCHC has long recognized the urgent need for quality mental health services in corrections. Even before the current pandemic, a staggering percentage of incarcerated individuals had mental health diagnoses – with many others undiagnosed. That is why NCCHC offers a set of standards, facility accreditation, specialty certification, and an annual conference dedicated to mental health.

Education related to health professionals' mental health also gained traction this year, with programs like Avoiding Burnout in Tough Times, Your Ethical Duty to Self-Care: The Invisible Effects of Working in Corrections, Coping With Occupational Stress in Today's Environment, Taking Care of the Caretakers: The Critical Role of Staff Wellness, and more.







NCCHC continued important discussions about the ways unconscious bias, racism, and health disparities intersect in corrections, a fact made even more obvious by the pandemic. A new Committee on Systemic Racism in Correctional Health Care, in its first year, began to identify possible strategies for eliminating racial inequities in correctional health, with an emphasis on education and training.

To that end, Brittany Works, LMSW-CTP, a consultant on antiracism and trauma-informed care, presented a thought-provoking webinar and conference session on the effects of racial and generational trauma in justice-involved populations.

At the National Conference, Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, chair of the Presidential COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, joined CDC Senior Scientist for Correctional Health Liesl Hagan, MPH, in a Keynote Conversation About COVID-19, Racial Disparities, and Corrections, sharing thoughts on how the country can address health inequities and reduce the disproportionate effects of the pandemic in corrections and society at large.



"Trauma is not just an experience; it literally impacts the DNA of those who have the experiences, especially when looking at a collective group of people."

Brittany Works, LMSW-CTP, Executive Director, Matters of Our Mind

NURTURING YOUNG TALENT, VALUING SEASONED PROFESSIONALS

AMID THE "GREAT RESIGNATION," THE NEED FOR NEW PEOPLE ENTERING THE CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE FIELD IS MORE URGENT THAN EVER.

So is the need for more seasoned veterans to share their hard-earned knowledge and expertise. In its first full year of operation, the NCCHC Foundation is doing its part to foster growth and learning among young professionals and those new to the field through its conference scholarship and mentorship program.



NCCHC FOUNDATION MISSION:

to champion the correctional health care field and serve the public by supporting research, professional education, scholarships, and patient reentry into the community.

For a complete list of NCCHC Foundation donors, see page 17.



The NCCHC Foundation is reaching people who could never before access NCCHC education and helping them make a difference. In 2021, the foundation selected 34 students and early-career professionals from hundreds of applicants to receive scholarships to NCCHC educational conferences. Those scholarships – made possible by targeted gifts from Corizon Health, Centurion Health, and individual foundation donors – were awarded to a diverse group of students from historically black colleges and universities, mental health professionals, physicians, and nurses.

Starting with the National Conference in Chicago, each scholarship winner was matched with a mentor to help guide them through the conference – and through their careers.



"It was incredibly reassuring and validating to learn that my mentor shared many of my struggles. Having been in the field significantly longer, she offered valuable advice and feedback that I am implementing daily."

Meghan Wilke, MS, Kentucky Department of Corrections, 2021 National Conference scholarship winner

NURTURING YOUNG TALENT, VALUING SEASONED PROFESSIONALS



2021 marked 30 years since the launch of the Certified Correctional Health Professional program. In that time, the program has provided a pathway for those health care professionals who want to challenge themselves, promote their profession, and receive well-deserved recognition for their dedicated efforts. Thousands of individuals have boosted their careers and their confidence by becoming certified. Some CCHPs from the inaugural "class of 1991" are still certified and still practicing today.

The program celebrated with a record-breaking year. More individuals applied to become certified as CCHPs than ever before in the program's history! National Conference attendees marked CCHP's successful 30th anniversary year with a rollicking reception that got the crowd up and dancing.





The CCHP program has renewed its commitment to expanding relationships beyond the 50 states. In 2021, NCCHC experts traveled to Puerto Rico to provide two days of intensive NCCHC standards training and CCHP test preparation for 25 employees of Physician Correctional, which provides health care services to the incarcerated population of Puerto Rico, followed by the exam administered at their facility. This on-site training/exam package provides a truly collaborative learning experience, giving participants in-depth review, greater opportunity for questions and discussion, and a chance to take the exam in a familiar environment amongst colleagues – all without having to travel. The certification department also is exploring offering the exam in Spanish in states and U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico where Spanish is an official first language.

"We are very pleased with the training and examination process NCCHC offered to several of our employees. We have high expectations of having 100 candidates for CCHP certification for 2022."

Raul Villalobos, MD, CCHP, President, Physician Correctional, San Juan, Puerto Rico

#1 YEAR

for CCHP applications received

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE DURING EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

DURING A
TAXING 2021,
CORRECTIONAL
PROFESSIONALS
WERE OFTEN ASKED
TO DO MORE WITH

LESS. Despite the challenges, they continued to strive for excellence, and NCCHC provided guidance, clarity, and resources to help the field stay focused on quality patient care.

With the adoption of the Use of Humanizing Language in Correctional Health Care position statement, NCCHC put its support behind using respectful language to describe incarcerated people. The position statement recommends that those who work in correctional facilities or interact with people experiencing incarceration use person-centered language, such as "incarcerated individual" instead of "inmate" or "offender" and "person with substance use disorder" rather than "addict" or "drug user."

The new Restrictive Housing in Juvenile Correctional
Settings position statement asserts that the practice
of restrictive housing should not be used in juvenile
corrections, outlines measures that should be considered
as alternatives, and delineates steps that must be taken

to ensure the health and well-being of juveniles in the rare event that restrictive housing is necessary. After being adopted by NCCHC, the statement received endorsements from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine.

Photo: © SeventyFour/Shutterstock

Photo: Clackamas County Jail

FIRST

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE DURING EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

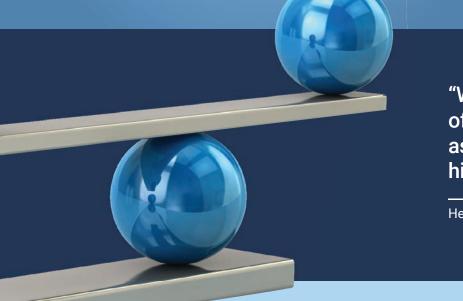
In partnership with Harvard University researchers, NCCHC is studying the effects of accreditation on health care delivery and health outcomes, with the NCCHC standards being used as the basis for assessing proper management of care services. The study kicked off in 2021 with an ultimate goal of 40 participating facilities.

To combat the lack of comprehensive disease screening and poor continuity of care in jail, Health Affairs Forefront called for universal adoption of NCCHC standards to improve health care screening and management of chronic medical conditions upon admission. Health Affairs Forefront (formerly Health Affairs Blog) is a highly regarded, rigorously reviewed vehicle for commentary and analysis on health policy and issues affecting health and health care.



HIGHEST HONOR IN CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Tampa, Fla., became the first agency in the country to receive NCCHC's prestigious Pinnacle recognition for having earned NCCHC accreditations in three separate service areas. HCSO's Falkenburg Road Jail and Orient Road Jail both became accredited for their health services, mental health services, and opioid treatment programs, the first facilities in the nation to achieve this trifecta of accreditations, the highest honor in correctional health care.



"We propose universal adoption and strict enforcement of NCCHC guidelines for basic health screens and health assessments. These guidelines were developed to ensure high-quality care and uphold basic human rights."

Health Affairs Forefront

PROVIDING A FULCRUM BETWEEN FACILITY AND PROVIDER

THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC, MANY OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING CORRECTIONS HAVE BEEN HEALTH-CARE RELATED. NCCHC

Resources, Inc., provides full-service consulting services – for correctional health systems by correctional health experts – to help navigate those challenges.

During 2021, NCCHC Resources saw incredible growth both in the number of projects – a 58% increase – and the number of clients served – a 33% increase. Several national experts joined the NCCHC Resources team to serve those clients.

The PASS program – Performance Analysis and Support System – continued to expand and added a large multisite jail to its client list. Through PASS, consultants act as liaisons between health care providers and correctional leadership, offering comprehensive clinical and fiscal oversight and support, coordinating and monitoring performance, and ensuring compliance with contract terms. More than just contract monitoring, this is active contract management, focused on identifying and improving areas of risk, waste, and inefficiency in health services.

"NCCHC Resources has been incredibly helpful in creating a collaborative environment. They work objectively with our best interests in mind, and the vendor sees the value of their expertise."

Sheriff Earnell Lucas, Milwaukee County (WI)



PROVIDING A FULCRUM BETWEEN FACILITY AND PROVIDER

NCCHC Resources expanded technical assistance to pharmacy services during 2021, providing research and analysis of the current treatment landscape. Other projects: completed an internal process review for a major health care services provider, provided expert review of suicide prevention policies and practices, and conducted annual California Title 15 facility inspections for medical/mental health care.

Other offerings include best-in-class correctional health facility design services, bringing national expertise in this unique area to support both clinicians and custody professionals as they carry out their duties.

Clients include some of the largest and most complex jail systems in the country, state departments of correction, county jails, and federal agencies.



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