

What if...

A Year of OPPORTUNITIES



NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE

2022

Annual Report

What if...?

We embraced change

We thought outside the box

We came together

We changed for the better

We spoke out

We provided direction

We welcomed the future



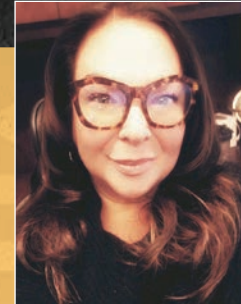
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What if...? A Year of **OPPORTUNITIES**

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.



Dear Colleagues:

As we emerge from the disruption of the past few years, we find ourselves stronger and more united.

While everyone can agree that the experience has been unsettling, to say the least, the end of 2022 gave us an opportunity to reflect not only on what we have lost, but also on what we have gained and learned.

The uncertainty we lived through provided us numerous opportunities to shift our thinking, embrace change, and ponder the possibilities. What if...?

What if instead of feeling forced to do things differently, we welcomed the opportunity to try new things? Like virtual conferences and meetings, hybrid surveys, and at-home proctored CCHP exams.

What if, when all the rules were changing, we realized there were too many rules to begin with? What if putting away the rule book meant we could be more innovative and creative?

What if being in lockdown helped free us? Free to move the field forward, free *not* to do things the way they have always been done and to embrace transformation.

What if being apart actually brought us closer? What if we realized that we really are all in this together – and that it's not a bad place to be?

What if the chaos and disruption helped us learn what is profoundly important: our patients, each other, and the future of correctional health care.

The pandemic shed light on our field – and on the importance of doing it right – more than ever before. As a result, NCCHC is experiencing unprecedented growth and expansion. Thank you for being part of it.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Ross'.

Deborah Ross, CCHP, CEO

Photo © maxsattana/Shutterstock

What if...? We came together

If COVID-19 taught us one thing, it's that we like to be together. Being in a community makes us stronger, happier, and more effective at our jobs. And in 2022, with vaccine boosters increasing confidence that the worst of the pandemic was behind us, the correctional health care community came together in a big way at NCCHC events.

More than 700 attendees flashed their proof-of-vaccination cards at the Spring Conference on Correctional Health Care in Atlanta, the first in-person Spring Conference since before the lockdown. Then we were back to full capacity with prepandemic attendance numbers at the fall National Conference in Las Vegas, NCCHC's favorite gathering spot. And we saw record participation – 500 people – at the Correctional Mental Health Care Conference in Denver in July, testimony to the ongoing mental health crisis in corrections.

We also learned that virtual conferences, an innovation born of necessity two years ago, filled an important need and are here to stay. We continued to offer online versions of each conference, ensuring that NCCHC's unique educational content is available to everyone – including those who cannot or don't wish to travel.

Monthly webinars on the year's most critical issues, including opioid use disorder, monkeypox, hepatitis C, HIV, and COVID, rounded out the year's educational offerings.



6,800
conference
and webinar
attendees

3
virtual
conferences

11
webinars

3
live
conferences

What if...? We came together

Dire circumstances tend to drive the desire for professional development. Or maybe word is out that becoming a Certified Correctional Health Professional puts you in the company of thousands of similarly motivated, skilled, and knowledgeable correctional health colleagues. In 2022, more people than ever before applied to take the CCHP exam – surpassing even 2021's record-breaking number.

In 2022, leading correctional health care providers YesCare and Centurion strengthened their commitment to NCCHC standards by increasing the number of CCHPs among line staff and leadership through incentive programs and bonuses.

The CCHP community also continued its expansion beyond the continental U.S., offering the exam in Spanish to correctional health professionals in Puerto Rico, where Spanish is the first official language. More than 50 people took the exam, which was carefully translated into Puerto-Rican Spanish, and 98% passed.

“We believe there’s a direct impact when you get more people certified. It raises the level of quality throughout the facilities we serve. It’s not just something to do to progress your career, it’s a commitment to correctional health as a specialty.”

Brandon De Julius, MBA, CCHP-A, executive vice president and chief administrative officer, YesCare



Coming soon to CCHP

Immediate results after taking the exam

New specialty exam for physicians, nurse practitioners, and PAs

Digital badges

Illustration © Kristiana Budkevica/Shutterstock

What if...? We changed for the better



For the accreditation program, 2022 was a year of exponential growth, including increases in the number of surveys completed, the quantity of applications in the pipeline, and the total number of accredited facilities. New streamlined processes and additions to the team helped smooth the expansion.

As COVID's threat lessened, NCCHC saw a return to on-site surveys while continuing to offer the hybrid experience created during the pandemic, in which at least one surveyor is on-site and the rest of the team is virtual. Facilities appreciate the flexibility of choosing the best survey option to meet their needs.

The demand for accreditation of opioid treatment programs was especially strong in 2022, reflecting the growing need for effective opioid use disorder treatment behind bars and the growing understanding and acknowledgement of the lifesaving potential of medication assisted treatment.

A new and improved application for health services accreditation was rolled out, streamlining the steps to accreditation, while also making the process more user-friendly, creating more touchpoints along the way, and setting the stage for a positive experience.

To keep up with demand, more than 20 experienced health care professionals were selected to join the roster of NCCHC surveyors.

30%
Increase in
number of
NCCHC-accredited
OTPs over
previous year

What if...? We changed for the better

“Not only does this revision reflect our current understanding of trauma-informed care, critical for supporting youths who are involved in the justice system, but it also acknowledges the disproportionate confinement of minority youth.”

Joseph Penn, MD, CCHP-MH, chairman,
Juvenile Standards Task Force

A newly updated edition of the NCCHC *Standards for Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities* was published in 2022 after more than 18 months of work by a task force that included physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and mental health experts in juvenile health.

The revision brings the juvenile *Standards* up to date with best practices for evidence-based care of youths and reflects new knowledge gained over the past several years, especially in supporting youths with adverse childhood experiences (ACES) such as abuse, neglect, and trauma. Issues of special concern – including self-injury, suicide prevention, LGBTQI youth, substance use, restrictive housing, and mandated reporting – receive attention in the standards.

NCCHC *Standards* are a vital resource that provide the framework to ensure that systems, policies, and procedures are in place to produce the best and most effective outcomes.

Photo © Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock

What if...? We spoke out

One silver lining to the pandemic was the long-overdue attention it brought to correctional health care, and to injustices that disproportionately affect justice-involved populations. In 2022 NCCHC amped up its advocacy role on several national initiatives aimed at breaking down barriers to health equity.

275

Democratic,
Republican, and
Independent
co-sponsors of the
MAT Act


In a major victory that will save lives, reduce stigma, and open the doors to recovery from opioid use disorder, President Biden signed the bipartisan Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act during the last week of December as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2023. NCCHC was part of a coalition of hundreds of national organizations to call on Congress and the White House to pass the MAT Act, which eliminates burdensome federal rules around prescribing buprenorphine, a gold-standard FDA-approved medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). Correctional facilities, operating on the front lines of the opioid epidemic, will now find it easier to treat OUD and provide an appropriate handoff to the community following release, an important step in preventing overdose, relapse, and recidivism.

“It is clear that the criminal justice system, while improving public safety, must also play an important role in ensuring that people within its custody or supervision and upon reentry who use drugs do not overdose and instead have access to the continuum of services and support. Ensuring meaningful rehabilitation and successful reentry advances public health and public safety goals.”

Photos © fotogestoeber/Shutterstock; courtesy Rhode Island Department of Corrections

– Biden Administration 2022 National Drug Control Strategy

What if...? We spoke out



**Abortion is
Health Care.**

In the post-*Roe v. Wade* world, NCCHC is continuing to provide guidance to the field on optimizing maternal health care in the face of new constraints. After the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* enabled states to restrict or eliminate access to abortion, NCCHC signed on to a joint statement from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association – along with dozens of other major health care organizations – voicing opposition to the decision and all legislative interference in the patient–clinician relationship. As outlined in the *Standards for Health Services*, NCCHC recognizes the importance of providing incarcerated women safe, full-scope, comprehensive pregnancy care – including access to prenatal care, options counseling, and abortion care.

“If you work in corrections in a place that houses females, this Supreme Court decision is going to impact your health care and operations,” Carolyn Sufrin, MD, PhD, CCHP, associate professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, told participants during an NCCHC webinar on Clinical and Legal Issues for Corrections After the Dobbs Decision.



NCCHC also affirmed our commitment to patients at all life stages with two new position statements. *Trauma-Responsive Care for Youths in Correctional Facilities* speaks to the vital importance of treatment that is conducive to youths' psychological and emotional healing. *Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment* calls for the adoption of measures to ensure that patients' desires regarding end-of-life care are followed.

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What if...? We provided direction



NCCHC Resources, Inc., the consulting subsidiary of NCCHC, had its most productive and rewarding year yet, with greater impact on clients' health care operations, services, and outcomes. Backed by NCCHC's time-tested correctional health care expertise, NCCHC Resources is strong and growing stronger.

With broad and deep experience in both corrections and medical and mental health care, NCCHC Resources serves as a bridge between those worlds, helping clients navigate complex vendor-agency relationships, understand and implement standards and best practices, reduce vulnerability to cost- and time-intensive litigation, get ahead of potential issues, and mitigate risk.

2022 saw a 25% increase in the number of NCCHC Resources clients – large jail systems, state departments of corrections, county jails, and federal agencies – and a 27% increase in the number of expert consultants brought on board to help solve those clients' health care challenges.

Contributing to that growth was an increase in long-term monitoring projects, in which NCCHC Resources provides comprehensive clinical and fiscal support and oversight, monitors and coordinates performance, and ensures compliance with contract terms and NCCHC standards.

27%
increase in the
number of
consultants



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What if...? We provided direction

Other projects included large-system health care services assessments, crisis intervention training, and trainings on some of corrections' biggest issues: medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, in-custody deaths, and suicide prevention.

The Resources' leadership team contributed thought leadership through several published articles including a study on the association between facility type, geographical area, population density, and institutional characteristics and the provision of MAT, with important implications for breaking down barriers to treatment.

2022 NCCHC Resources Board of Directors

Nancy White, MA, LPC (chair)	Esmail Porsa, MD, MPH, MBA, CCHP-P, CCHP-A
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Deana Johnson, JD	Samuel Soltis, MHA, CCHP

“NCCHC Resources’ professionalism and guidance has been invaluable for the Allegheny County Jail leadership. We have witnessed positive results after implementing the suggested changes and look forward to a continued relationship with NCCHC Resources on additional improvements as we strive to become a correctional institution that serves as a model for other facilities nationwide.”

Warden Orlando Harper, Allegheny County (PA) Jail



NCCHC Resources managing director Fred Meyer, MA, CJM, CCHP, speaking on a panel about careers in correctional health care

Photo © SeventyFour/Shutterstock

What if...? We welcomed the future



The NCCHC Foundation – with a mission to champion the correctional health care field and serve the public through research, professional education, scholarships, and patient reentry – continued its focus on the next generation, creating opportunities for young professionals and for incarcerated youth.

For the NCCHC Foundation, 2022 was a year of building programs, strengthening partnerships, and opening doors.

With an emphasis on nurturing young talent and those new to the correctional health care field, the Foundation provided opportunities for 58 students and early-career professionals to attend NCCHC conferences. Scholarship recipients were selected from among hundreds of applications received from people who would not otherwise be able to attend the conference. Each was paired with an experienced mentor to help guide them throughout the conference – and their careers.

These invaluable experiences are made possible through support from individuals and corporate partners who understand the importance of keeping the correctional health care workforce pipeline full.

\$500k
amount
raised
(since 2020)

“This is my first medical conference ever, and I wouldn’t be here without the scholarship. I’ve learned so much and met so many people in such a short time. I can’t wait for tomorrow.”

Kristen Moser, MSN, RN, USP Lewisburg
(with her mentor Sue Smith, MSN, RN, CCHP-RN)



What if...? We welcomed the future

"Correctional health care goes beyond patient care and has an important impact on public health and public safety. Supporting students in their educational pursuits with this message will attract more health care professionals to corrections. Centurion is proud to support and invest in future caregivers through the education and scholarship activities of the NCCHC Foundation."

Keith D. Lueking, CEO, Centurion

In 2022, the Foundation opened doors for youth expression through a "Poetry and Posters" pilot program in partnership with the Clark County (NV) Department of Juvenile Justice. Young men at Spring Mountain Youth Camp were provided with art supplies and invited to share their experiences through a poem, drawing, or other artistic expression. A number of these young artists proudly displayed and discussed their work with National Conference attendees in Las Vegas. After the success of this first effort, the Foundation will expand the Poetry and Posters program in 2023.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, the NCCHC Foundation has raised nearly \$500,000 since first launching in 2020. Now in our third year, we are poised to continue raising awareness about the power of correctional health care careers and promoting positive transitions for incarcerated youth as they reenter their home communities and build a productive future.



National Conference scholarship recipients with their mentors

Photo © MemoryMan/Shutterstock



Partners in Correctional Health

The NCCHC Foundation's Partners in Correctional Health are generous individuals and companies who are committed to working together to advance the field of correctional health care through annual gifts. We are grateful for our many donors and supporters, and below recognize all gifts made between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022.

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YesCare

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If you notice an omission or error, please accept our apologies and let us know at info@ncchcfoundation.org.

2022 Award Recipients



Bernard P. Harrison
Award of Merit

B. Sue Medley-Lane, RN,
CCHP-A



B. Jaye Anno Award
of Excellence in
Communication

Jaime Shimkus, CCHP



Young Professional
Award

Ashley Bujalski, PsyD,
MA, CCHP



Surveyor of the Year

Paulette Finander, MD,
MBA, CCHP-P



Program of the Year

Colorado Division of
Youth Services
Behavioral Health
Services & Programming



R. Scott Chavez Facility of the Year

Wisconsin Resource Center



Edward A. Harrison
Excellence in
Correctional Health Care
Leadership Award

Melissa Caldwell, PhD,
MA, CCHP-MH, CCHP-A

2022 Board of Representatives

NCCHC is supported by the major national organizations representing the fields of health, mental health, law, and corrections. Each supporting organization names a liaison to the NCCHC Board of Representatives to create a robust, multidisciplinary governing structure that reflects the complexities of correctional health care.

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