



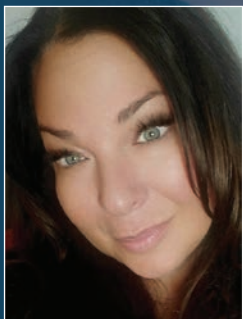
NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

JOINING HANDS

REACHING OUT



Dear Colleagues:

For the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, 2023 was a year of joining hands with our partners, reaching out to constituents, and leading the way to innovation and improvement.

Corrections is in an era of rapid change and mounting challenges, coupled with shortages in staffing and funding. It is more important than ever that health care, custody, leadership, and government forge new connections, work together, and problem-solve collectively. Together, we are making inspiring progress, as an organization and a field.

The call for quality health care within corrections is getting stronger, and demand for NCCHC's products, services, and expertise has never been higher. Our staff continues to grow to keep up with demand. But we could not do what we do without all of you – the talented, dedicated professionals who choose to work in this uniquely challenging field.

Thank you for all you do. Please enjoy this snapshot of our year.

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

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.

Correctional health care is an “all-hands” kind of operation. It takes everyone – health staff, custody staff, and leadership – joining together to make things work. To that end, NCCHC is working more closely than ever with industry partners including the American Jail Association, National Sheriffs’ Association, and more.

In partnership with the AJA, NCCHC presented a two-day, interdisciplinary virtual conference on custody–health care collaboration. This first-of-its kind partnership brought together nearly 300 participants to learn about their common challenges and goals.

NCCHC Resources leadership shared their expertise through a series of articles about medications for opioid use disorder in the AJA magazine, American Jails, and the NSA magazine, Sheriff & Deputy, as well as other thought-leadership pieces. NCCHC is also represented on those organizations’ board and committees.

Along with the American Society for Addiction Medicine and Advocates for Human Potential, NCCHC led the development of the Guidelines for Managing Substance Abuse Withdrawal in Jails, published in 2023 by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Institute of Corrections.

Unafraid to tackle tough issues, NCCHC adopted its newest position statement, Anti-Racism in Correctional Health Care, which outlines concrete steps correctional health professionals, administrators, and decision-makers can take to mitigate systemic racism and its effects on both the incarcerated population – disproportionately people of color – and correctional staff. It follows an earlier statement on Addressing Systemic, Structural, and Institutional Racism in the Juvenile Legal System, calling for correctional facilities to promote policies and practices to eradicate inequities, address racist attitudes of staff, promote an inclusive culture, and treat the racial trauma that youth of color have experienced.



“We must strive to move correctional health care toward recognizing, understanding, and addressing systemic and other forms of racism.”

Anti-Racism in Correctional Health
Care position statement

POINTING TO QUALITY



When the going gets tough, the tough get...accredited. Ongoing challenges in 2023 made the need for expert guidance, reliable policies and procedures, and consistent best practices more urgent than ever – and led more facilities to seek NCCHC accreditation.

The demand for NCCHC accreditation continues to grow, fueled by the unrelenting opioid crisis, mental health challenges, and staffing disruptions. Since the start of the COVID pandemic four years ago, the number of facilities accredited by NCCHC has grown by 16%.

2023 once again saw a marked increase in facilities seeking accreditation for their opioid treatment programs, reflecting the opioid epidemic's exacerbation due to the influx of fentanyl and the growing acceptance of medication assisted treatment as the gold standard of treatment.

The accreditation team responded by providing accreditation applicants with more hands-on support, beginning with initial onboarding and continuing throughout the accreditation journey. Other enhancements included a new and improved online application for a more efficient and user-friendly experience, enhanced on-the-job training for accreditation surveyors, and additional staff experts.

42%

increase in number of
NCCHC-accredited OTPs
over previous year

“Through this journey, we learned about the benefits of establishing and consistently utilizing CQI processes, which has enhanced the overall quality of care we provide. The accreditation process provided a detailed understanding of NCCHC standards, educating our programs on the expectations for accreditation, and urged us to reevaluate and improve aspects of our operations.”

Bisrat Abebe, MSW, LCSW, associate vice president,
Adult Behavioral Health Services,
Community Health Resources

Photo: Hyoung Chang/Denver Jail via Getty Images



RAISING HANDS

“The best thing I have done for my professional development since being hired. I learned more about standards and best practices this week than I have the entire time I’ve been working in the jail. Very grateful NCCHC exists, and that I took the opportunity to learn into my own hands as no one has been able to provide me with any education relevant to my profession until now.

National Conference attendee

NCCHC conferences, webinars, and other learning opportunities are hands-down the best correctional health care education available. NCCHC is where correctional health professionals with something to teach go to share it, where those with a desire to know more go to learn, and where those with questions go to find answers.

Three in-person conferences a year provide a valuable gathering space for peers from around the country to learn, earn continuing education, and talk shop. Virtual versions of the conferences fill an important need by providing an online alternative for those who are unable to travel. And regularly scheduled webinars – offered both live and “on demand” at any time – explore hot topics like MAT/MOUD, racism, and post-COVID conditions.

The Spring Conference on Correctional Health Care in New Orleans was a *bontemp* with record-breaking attendance, up 35% from the previous year. Mental health professionals met in our nation’s capital for a deep dive into the field’s biggest challenges at the annual Correctional Mental Health Care Conference. And we returned to Las Vegas for another successful National Conference, where 2023’s correctional health care award winners were honored and applauded (see page 17).



3
in-person
conferences



2
virtual conferences



8
webinars



5,100
conference and
webinar attendees



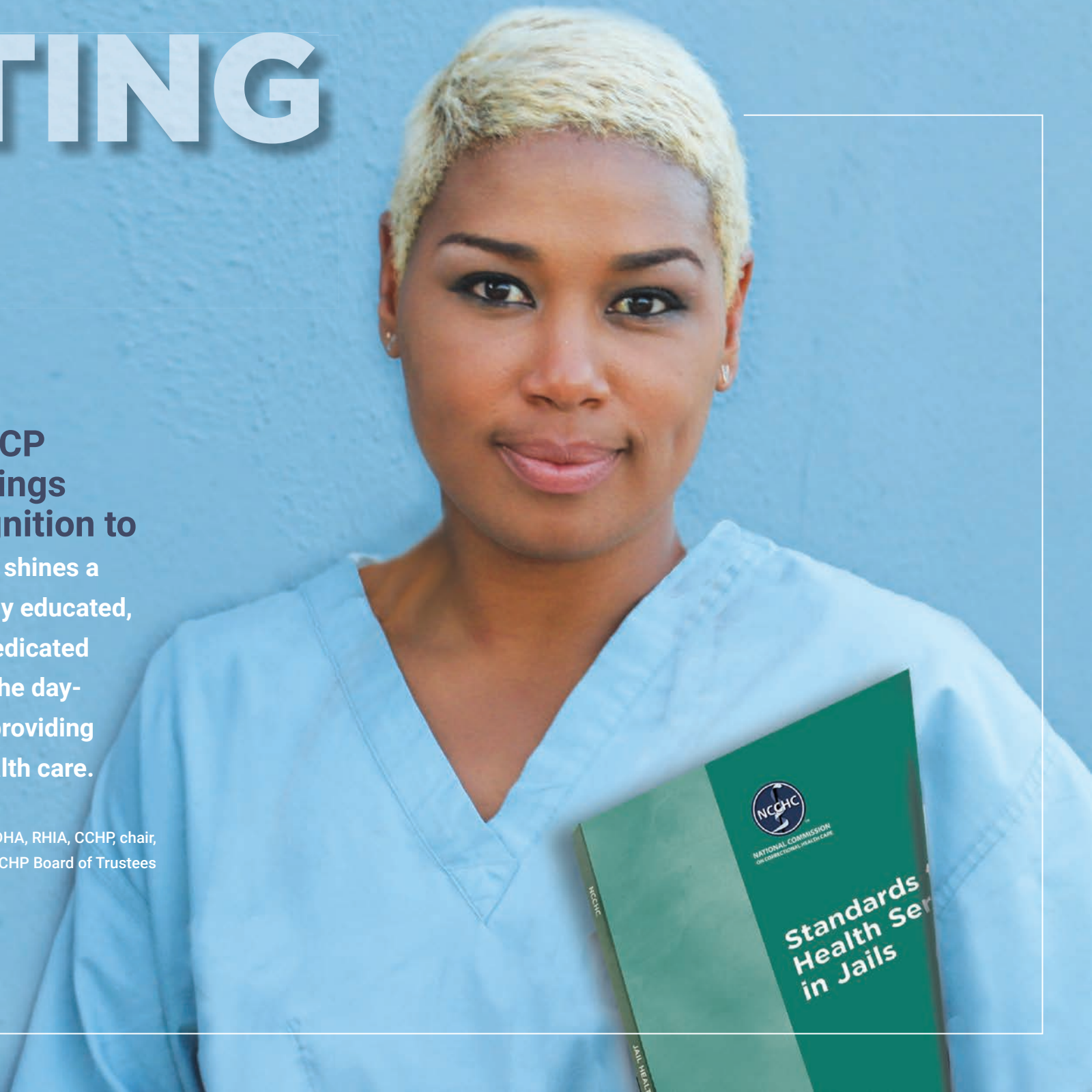
128.25
CE hours offered



LIFTING UP

“The CCHP-CP program brings more recognition to the field and shines a light on the many educated, qualified, and dedicated people who do the day-to-day work of providing correctional health care.

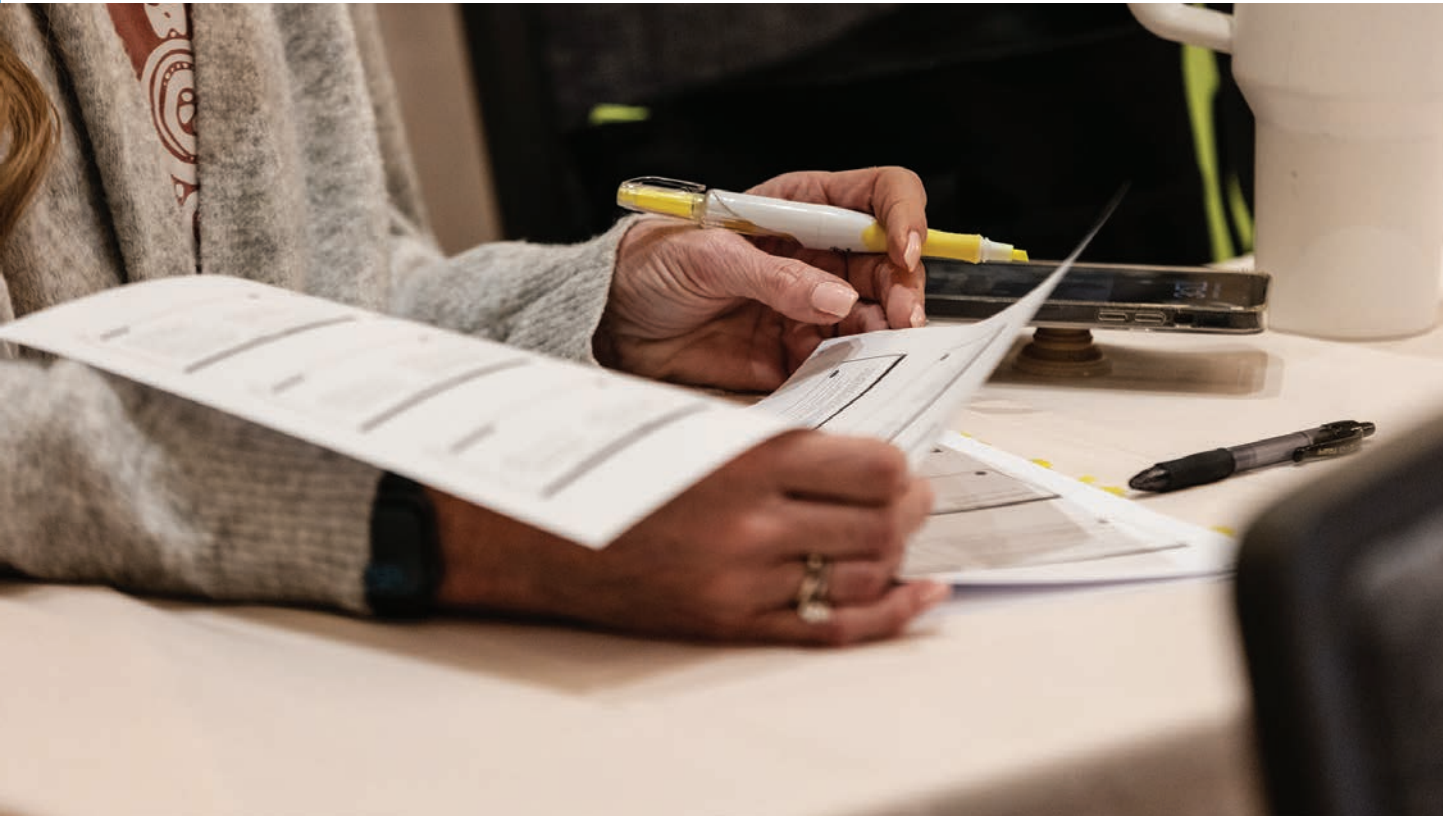
Pauline Marcussen, DHA, RHIA, CCHP, chair,
CCHP Board of Trustees



Inquiry is at the heart of professional development and, in 2023, we heard one question more than ever before: “How do I become certified as a correctional health professional?” For the third time in a row, the CCHP program broke its own record for the most applications in a year.

2023 was a record-breaking year for the certification program. Not only did a record number of aspiring CCHPs apply to take the exam, the fourth quarter welcomed more new CCHPs than any quarter in the program’s history, and more CCHPs recertified than in any previous year. High fives to all of them for advancing their careers and the field!

Also new in 2023: Digital “badges” that recognize CCHP status and provide proof of certification online. Unlike cardboard certificates, electronic badges can be shared digitally via email or social media, link to pertinent information about the credential, and verify that certification is current and valid. And they are popular! Since the benefit was introduced, 90% of recertifying CCHPs chose to receive a digital badge rather than a certificate.



Clinical providers and advanced care practitioners applauded the launch of the widely anticipated CCHP-CP (Clinical Provider) exam, a new specialty program that expands the CCHP-Physician program to include physician assistants/associates and nurse practitioners. The program recognizes the critical role played by correctional NPs and PAs, who have long sought recognition through a specialty CCHP program.

LEADING THE WAY



NCCHC RESOURCES MISSION

To provide comprehensive customized consulting and technical assistance services that help to elevate the quality of correctional health care.

Photo: Courtesy Okaloosa County Department of Corrections



From coast to coast, NCCHC Resources’ consultants provide supportive partnership, expert guidance, and technical assistance to large jail systems, county jails, state departments of corrections, and federal agencies tackling tough challenges.

For nearly a decade, NCCHC Resources, Inc., the consulting arm of NCCHC, has developed cutting-edge solutions for some of the largest and most complex correctional health care systems nationwide. That track record continued in 2023 with projects ranging from wraparound monitoring services and fiscal and clinical oversight to specific trainings, research projects, and process reviews. Going forward, the team is poised to expand services and solutions to align with the changing landscape.



“NCCHC Resources is an engaging and collaborative partner, challenging us to champion positive changes within our jails and supporting us with a team of knowledgeable advisors, data-driven metrics, and standards-based feedback. NCCHC Resources has been with us every step of the way as we move closer to achieving our goal of providing correctional health care that exceeds community health care.

Captain Tim Lanquist, facility manager, Todd Road Jail, Ventura County (CA) Sheriff’s Office

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HELPING HANDS



“As emerging professionals in the field of correctional health care, we found the conference to be a welcome gathering of like minds. The experience created lasting connections, deepened our knowledge, and empowered us to strive toward our goals.

Satia Kavanaugh Vanderloop, MS, LPC,
NCCHC Foundation 2023 scholarship recipient

Still in its early years itself, the NCCHC Foundation is focusing on drawing early-career professionals and students into the correctional health care field. The Foundation is committed to developing the correctional health care workforce, spreading the word about this uniquely fulfilling field, and filling the career pipeline with qualified, committed professionals.



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.

In its mission to promote careers in correctional health care, the NCCHC Foundation produced two videos designed to introduce students and young professionals to the field. The videos, featuring a number of dynamic professionals discussing why they chose this work and why they find it rewarding, are being widely shared. The second, specifically about correctional nursing, was made possible through a generous individual donation from Deborah Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, CCHP.

The Foundation's conference scholarship program, another workforce development initiative, has steadily gained momentum. In 2023, 35 young health care professionals attended NCCHC conferences – an experience that would not have been possible for them without the generosity of the Foundation's donors and corporate sponsors.

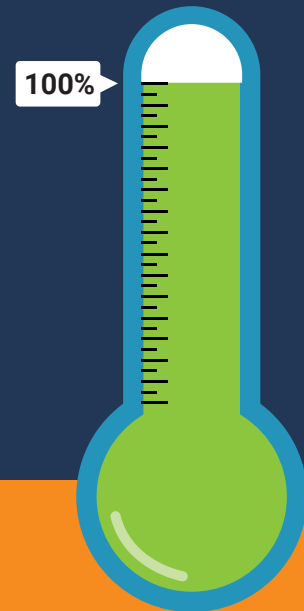
To date, more than 135 scholars, in medical, mental health, nursing, and administrative programs, have shared in this experience. They promise a bright future for the industry.



100%

funds raised in
\$25,000 matching
challenge from NCCHC

GOAL
\$25,000



Other highlights of the year:

a successful – and fun – silent auction held online and at the National Conference, sponsored by Physician Correctional USA, and a \$25,000 end-of-the-year matching grant from NCCHC, which reached 100% of its goal.



2023 NCCHC FOUNDATION DONORS

We are grateful for our many donors and supporters, and below recognize all gifts made between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

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

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Pima County (AZ) Adult Detention Complex



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Okaloosa County (FL) Department of
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**Deceased*



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