



With this newsletter we would like to give you updated information about the WHO Regional Office for Europe's activities on prison health. For the first time in its 15 years, the WHO network on prison health held its annual meeting in Copenhagen at the premises of the Regional Office. It turned out to be a very constructive meeting (see below). In the item 'In the spotlight...' this time we have a brief note from the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA).

Please look at our website www.euro.who.int/prisons for more information about the work of WHO Regional Office for Europe in the area of prison health. Remember, if you would like anything included in our next newsletter next time or would like an initiative to be 'in the spotlight' in a future edition, please do not hesitate to let us know.

WHO Network Meeting on Prison Health, 14-16 October 2010 - Copenhagen, Denmark

During 14-16 October 2010 the annual WHO Network Meeting on Prison Health took place in the premises of WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark. The aim of the meeting was to review the progress made over the past 15 years during which WHO Regional Office for Europe has put particular focus on prison health and to facilitate detailed information exchange between the Regional Office, Member States and international partners. During the meeting particular attention was given to the stewardship role for prison health, as more and more countries in our Region consider a transfer of the responsibility for prison health from their Ministry of Justice/Interior to their Ministry of Health. Furthermore, The Regional Office was requested to establish a Taskforce to assess the current situation in Member States and to develop guidance to assist countries that are interested in making the transition.

The Meeting was closed with a keynote address by Dr Cees Goos, founder of the Health in Prisons Project in 1995, after which a reception followed. Dr Goos stressed the success of the project during the past 15 years and the improved situation in most Member States compared to 15 years ago.

On Saturday 16 October, prison visits were organized to 2 prison in the Copenhagen area: Anstalten ved Herstedvester and Statsfængslet i Vridsløselille. Many thanks to the Danish Prisons and Probation Service for organizing these interesting visits!

The WHO Network Meeting on Prison Health 2011 will take place in the beginning of October 2011 in Padua, Italy. Further details regarding dates and venue will follow early 2011.

Annual meeting American Public Health Association

WHO Regional Office for Europe was invited by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) to organize and present at two sessions at the American Public Health Association's Annual meeting 2010 in Denver. The driver for the invitations was the desire of both these organizations to hear more about the achievements of the WHO initiative on prison health in Europe, and its importance to public health. The main outcome of the two sessions was to finalize a Position Paper that some members of APHA and others aim to send to the WFPHA for consideration at its Executive Board meeting to be held in Geneva during the World Health Assembly meeting, May 2011 and to the World Congress of Public Health, in April 2012.

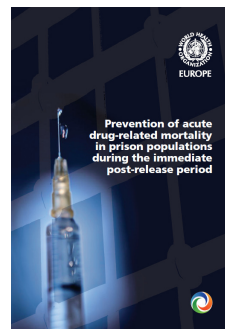


Publications

The main WHO/Europe publications on prison health that were published during 2010 were the Madrid Recommendation on Prison Health Protection and the WHO Recommendations on the Prevention of post-release drug overdose deaths among prison populations in the immediate post-release period.

Furthermore, in Public Health, edition 124 (2010) a mini-symposium was published regarding public health leadership, social justice and the socially marginalized. The mini-symposium includes a set of articles showing a good grasp of what needs to be done and including enough success and clarity of purpose to encourage public health to be confident that there is real public health gain from better awareness of and action for the socially marginalized.

In addition, an article on 'Women's health in prison: the case for action to address gender insensitivity and social injustice' was submitted to the WHO Bulletin in September 2010 and is hoped to be published early 2011.





WHO/Europe - Prison Health

Newsletter December 2010



In the spotlight...

In the spotlight is a new rubric in the Newsletter, in which an organization, initiative or member state gets the chance to inform the WHO network on prison health about their work.

This time, the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) is in our spotlight.



ICPA
International
Corrections and Prisons Association
for the Advancement of Professional Corrections

Introduction

It is a sad fact that across the globe prisoner numbers continue to increase year-on-year and overcrowding, with all the associated healthcare problems, is now the norm and not the exception. In the developed world, quality work with offenders has to be suspended in order to address more basic needs. However, the need in some parts of the developing world is a more fundamental one: how to feed a prisoner population when the population at large faces famine and extreme poverty; to address the healthcare needs of a prisoner population, high numbers of whom have HIV/AIDS, when pharmaceuticals are in extremely short supply for the general population. This is the reality of corrections whether it is in the developed or the developing world.

Against this background what relevance has ICPA and what can we offer corrections? The answer is that our existence is even more vital today than ever. As the Association enters its second decade we need to make our voice heard in the new paradigm of corrections in the 21st century. We need to become a voice for sanity in corrections. There is an ever-growing debate in the political sphere about the direction of modern corrections and, in particular, about the use of imprisonment. There is a widely-held view politically that imprisonment is the panacea to society's ills. It is not. Imprisonment has its place; but incarceration on the scale that exists in many of the jurisdictions will ultimately result in a more troubled society and not a less troubled one. This debate will continue and grow and we believe that ICPA should be active in informing that debate.

What is ICPA about?

In the ten years since it was founded, the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) has earned global recognition as a quality organization, driven by its Mission, to contribute to public safety by encouraging, and promoting professionalism in the field of corrections. ICPA has grown from an idea to an international organization of influence, with a membership base that encompasses some 80 countries and some 650 individuals.

ICPA offers people working in the corrections' arena, whether they work in prisons or community corrections, the public, private or voluntary sectors, the developed or the developing world, the opportunity to be part of an Association that stands for ethical, effective and humane corrections.

The Association is predicated on the belief that improving the professionalism and competence of correctional officers is destined to have a greater positive impact on prison conditions and the humane treatment of prisoners than mere campaigning. The Association is therefore not a lobbying or prisoner rights organization, but exists to provide an inclusive, safe, and secure forum for the respectful exchange of ideas, technology, and best practices in the profession of corrections.

The Association is a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Our Work

Among several key accomplishments over the past year, the Association held a successful Annual Conference in Ghent, which attracted over 400 delegates from 75 countries. We collaborated with the African Correctional Services Association (ACSA) to hold its second African Regional Conference, and held our second Latin American Regional Conference in Buenos Aires, which attracted some 120 people from 10 jurisdictions.

We have also produced a Manual for Rapid Construction in collaboration with UNDPKO, revised and updated its basic training manual for correctional officers; and conducted technical support work in Brazil.

The ICPA produces a Newsletter, titled 'Advancing Corrections', three times a year, with a circulation - both paper and electronic - that reaches some 30,000 people. The Association also maintains a website with an online community forum designed to facilitate the ongoing exchange of information and this is also open to employees of all institutional-level members. Participation and interest is growing steadily.

Programs and Services

ICPA holds an annual conference, which is the cornerstone of its service to members. The ICPA conference is a unique gathering of correctional professionals from around the world, where the true forum that the Association strives to be is brought to life through an energetic, creative, and diverse exchange of ideas and practices from every corner of the globe. The conference attracts 350 to 400 delegates representing more than 60 nations. Conferences have been held in Europe, Africa, North America, China and Asia.

Future conferences are planned for Singapore (2011), Mexico (2012) the USA (2013) and Africa (2014). In addition to these annual conferences, regional conferences have been held in Europe, Africa and South America.

Currently, ICPA is working closely with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO), the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, the African Correctional Services Association (ACSA) and Penal Reform International (PRI) to implement a five-year programme of support for Developing Nations in Africa. This follows on from the Abuja Conference and associated declaration in April 2009.

If you want to join ICPA simply log on to www.icpa.ca and help become part of that voice of sanity that corrections needs today.



Checklists on women's health in prison

As a follow up on the 2009 WHO/UNODC Declaration on Women's health in Prison, WHO/Europe and UNODC developed practical checklists and guidance notes. The checklists are aimed at three levels: 1. Decision and policy makers, 2. Prison management, and 3. Prison health staff, with the overall aim to support Member States with practical means to assess their current situation regarding women prisoners' health and health care services provided to them. The draft checklists were discussed during the WHO Network Meeting on Prison Health in October in Copenhagen. Member States were supportive to the draft document and Belgium, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, UK and Serbia volunteered to pilot test the checklists. The first pilot was conducted in November in Serbia. Other pilots will be set up shortly and the final versions of the checklists are expected to be published mid 2011.



Biennial Collaborative Agreements 2010-2011

For the biennium 2010-2011 country activities on prison health were planned in Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, UN Administered Province of Kosovo and Republic of Moldova. A mission to Serbia took place in November, during which an assessment of the female correctional institution in Pozarevac was conducted and meetings with the Ministry of Justice to improve alignment of prison health and public health took place. Also, the checklists on women's health in prison were pilot tested.

Missions to the UN Administered Province of Kosovo and Republic of Moldova took place earlier in 2010 and will be followed up shortly. In Kyrgyzstan, the results of a pilot study on substitution treatment in prisons will be available early next year.

Announcements of upcoming meetings

12-13 January 2011: Bilateral meeting WHO/Europe and Collaborating Centre for Prison and Health, Edinburgh, Scotland

3-4 March 2011: WHO Steering Group for Prison and Health, Geneva, Switzerland

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Please have a look at the new-style website of WHO/Europe: <http://www.euro.who.int/>

All information about the work of WHO/Europe on Prison Health can be found at

<http://www.euro.who.int/prisons>

