Letter from the Editor

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Regional Chapters Are

Where it’s at

This has been a very exciting and busy Fall for ACHSA. All three of our currently active chapters have held conferences. Brief reports from each conference are included in this issue. All were well-attended and received positive reviews from the participants. All of them included interesting and informative presentations from experts on a wide variety of topics. All were held in scenic locations and included opportunities to enjoy food and drink and time to explore and enjoy the setting.

Chapter meetings are certainly one of the strengths and strongest attractions of ACHSA. None of the other national correctional associations currently offer such opportunities for correctional healthcare professionals to gather on a regional basis. While there are certainly national issues in corrections and in healthcare that deserve attention, most correctional facilities are owned and operated by state and local governments, meaning that many of the issues most of us face are specific to the locations in which we work. Also, most of us have limited opportunities for interacting with other correctional healthcare professionals on an informal basis, even those we work together with most closely.

Regional conferences give us opportunities to discuss common problems with our colleagues and ask specific questions of presenters that may be of special interest to people in our part of the U.S. As a psychiatrist, I especially enjoy hearing presentations about topics that are related to issues other than mental health for a change.

It is especially exciting to hear that there are people in New Jersey who might be interested in starting a Northeastern Chapter and that there is interest in re-activating the Ohio Chapter. Regional chapters are where it is at!

I am still looking for original articles from our members with stories about new programs or initiatives, challenges you are facing or strong opinions that might be of interest to your colleagues. Send them to me at jrowles@mhm-services.com.

OBITUARIES

Sadly the world of Correctional Healthcare has lost a couple key players. Please see page 5 for the obituaries of B. Jaye Anno, PhD and Steven Spencer, MD.

information courtesy of NCCHC

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Updates From the Regional Chapters

CALIFORNIA / NEVADA

The California and Nevada Chapter lived up to its name as a wonderful source of education for nearly 200 correctional health care professionals from the West Coast in its annual conference held this year in Sacramento on October 29 and 30, 2015. The title and theme of the conference was Precision Healthcare—Tailoring Health Care for Inmates. Up to 14 hours of continuing medical education credits were available to physicians, nurses, mental health professionals and dentists. Attendees enjoyed informative lectures and the opportunity to meet colleagues working in jails and prisons.

Some highlights:

• The keynote speaker was Lorry Schoenly who discussed the area of health care on "Primum non Nocere—First Do No Harm. She spoke of the ethical dimensions of patient safety and that as care givers, we are called to 'do no harm' (nonmaleficence) and to do good (beneficence) for our patients. This is challenging in any setting but especially difficult in the correctional specialty. Yet, keeping our patient’s from harm is vital.

• Joseph Bick, MD, shared his experiences providing health care in a Malaysian prison that provided a stark contrast to that available in the US. The different prison culture he found in Malaysia created ethical and moral dilemmas for health care staff that has application for our own practices.

• Jason Bishop, Captain in Field Operations for CCHCS provided insight into the mind of correctional officers and how we can work together for common goals. His perspective on building team among health care staff and officer corp was refreshing.

• Dr. Anna Lembke, faculty of Stanford University School of Medicine, provided a practical clinician’s perspective to the challenges of prescription drug over-prescribing that included video vignettes of patient interactions with good and poor practitioner responses to patient requests for pain medication. This was an honest discussion of the difficulties practitioners have avoiding unnecessary escalation in pain medication.

• Some of the other valuable sessions were on medical emergencies, implication of sexual behavior behind bars, prescription drug epidemic and health care for the transgendered patient.

Next year’s conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza hotel in San Diego, October 27 and 28. For more information visit the CA/NV website: www.statepen.org.

SOUTH EAST REGION

Expanding the Possibilities

This was the conference title of ACHSA’s SE Regional conference held in Savannah Georgia, September 18–20 2015.

The conference was a wonderful event, held at a beautiful riverfront facility. Friday evening started with a meet and greet the vendors and a cocktail hour. It was followed by a dinner presentation and a film: “The Last Days of Private Jack Hall”. It is all about dying in prison and the benefits of Hospice care provided mostly by the other inmates in the facility.
Saturday was filled with an array of workshops such as Tele-rehabilitation, Professionalism and Ethics, Social Media in the Workplace, Tuberculosis and Testing in Corrections, The Evolution of Substance and Alcohol Abuse, Recent Trends in Correctional Healthcare Litigation and the Neurobiology of Addiction.

Sunday continued with Breakfast and a presentation on Inmate Management to Reduce Costs, and an Update on the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

The evenings were free to explore the Riverwalk or visit the historic squares with its stately mansions, or take a ghost tour to some of Savannah's haunts. The conference had fun activities like building competition with Legos and each table of attendees had to come up with a structure and submit it. There were raffle and door prizes, T-shirts and clear tote bags for all.

It was a fun and educational time with plenty of time to network.

Thanks go to our visionary SE Regional president Tammy Rouse, and the SE Regional Board for a great conference.
A special thank you to all our sponsors and vendors for their support.

OREGON

Oregon Enjoys the Fall Conference

From northern Oregon in the spring to southern Oregon in the fall, the Oregon Chapter of ACHSA gets around the state to reach jail and prison health professionals.

Our day and a half conference, October 2nd and 3rd, at The Mill in North Bend, was aFended by 20 health care professionals from the state DOC and five county jails. The discussion was lively when we discussed the transfer system using the chapters transfer form for Oregon. The issues of sending information and medications from and to the DOC intake center or the DOC sending inmates to the counties for court is real for everyone. We will continue to discuss this at the spring conference.

Topics ranged from examining the paKent with abdominal pain to assessing health care coordination. We had an update on Invega and diversity program at the Oregon DOC. Our ongoing discussion about how to put CQI into practice was highlighted by a presentation from one of our eastern prisons about the CQI program in place. One special highlight was watching the video “The American Nurse” about five nurses and their practice across the country. One prison nurse was featured who cared for hospice patients in Angola Prison. It was a sensitive and emotional presentation that made you proud to be a nurse and care for patients no matter what the setting.

The chapter had a discussion about how to reach more professionals in Oregon with the changing culture, finances and learning modalities. We decided to have a one day spring conference at a facility. We chose the states intake center in Wilsonville near Portland. In the fall we will have our day and a half conference on the Columbia River so more of the eastern facilities can aFend.

Staying true to our conference theme, “Shared Practice in the Corrections Community”, we learned about each other and expanded our practices with new knowledge and understanding. See you all in the spring 2016.
If you believe the quote from the English Philosopher, Herbert Spencer, that says “The great aim of education is not knowledge but action,” you are in good company. In the last couple months, the Southeastern, Oregon and the California/Nevada chapters of ACHSA have all had their conferences. Many health care professionals have benefited from membership in the American Correctional Health Care Services Association. Since 1979, we have sponsored educational conferences to those who deliver care directly to those incarcerated in our prisons, jails and juvenile institutions. With this education comes action and that can take many forms.

Action means advocating for the patient, improving best practices in care delivery, improving teamwork, bridging communication gaps, supporting each other every day. With action comes change and there is plenty of it all around us. Chronic care guidelines change, new medications enter the market, new surgical procedures are developed, administrative contracts change, policies and procedures are revised to keep quality improvement in our care delivery. So no matter if it is a small facility with one nurse and one provider a week or a large one with many nurses and providers, how you do care is reflective of the community, budget, leadership and laws that guide us.

For ACHSA, the last half of 2015 and 2016, is our time to look at the association and guide change to meet the needs of those delivering care to our patients. The board is looking at ways to support the existing chapters and emerging ones. New Jersey has a group of leaders working on a conference and developing a chapter. We would like to find leadership in Ohio to activate that chapter. We are evaluating whether we should have another annual conference or focus on the four conferences already offered by ACHSA in the chapters. These are regional conferences and spread across the US.

As the culture of correctional professionals change, so do the organizations that support them. We know there are financial changes with support for education, we know large companies offer their own educational plans, and we know on line trainings are offered more and more. NCCHC and the Academy are in communication with ACHSA to learn about each other’s organizations. It takes courage to step back, stop what you are doing and look at other options. ACHSA is taking that step with open eyes to opportunities.

We would like you to help us on the collective journey. We were the first membership organization and offer support to many professionals who deliver the care to patients. Let us know what you see as the role ACHSA has in the correctional health care arena. CLICK the ABOUT button on the ACHSA.org website and let us know your thoughts. The board will guide the organization in the right direction with your help.

Share your ACTION with us.

Take a moment out of your day to encourage a co-worker to join ACHSA and attend one of our Educational Conferences this year.
Longtime correctional health care veteran Steven Spencer, MD, CCHP-A, passed away on July 11th after a brief battle with cancer. Dr. Spencer was a lifelong champion of care for underserved people and, among his many accomplishments domestically and abroad, served as medical director of the New Mexico Corrections Department for 8 years. He later worked as an independent correctional health consultant for many years. He had long ties with NCCHC, serving as a physician accreditation surveyor since 1992 and maintaining his Certified Correctional Health Professional credential since 1993. He also was a member of the Society of Correctional physicians since 1993. He will be greatly missed.

ACHSA Welcomes a new North East Chapter

A day of Continuing Education was sponsored by Gilead Sciences and CFG Health Systems in November of 2015. It was a very successful day of sharing, education and getting to know your neighboring correctional healthcare providers. It was held at the Indian Springs Country Club in Marlton, New Jersey. Presentations were given by Lorry Schoenly (risk consultant), James Varrell (CFG), Mary Silva and Latasha Deer (Corizon), and Wanda Broach Butts. A buffet lunch presentation was given by Janine Gaiha from Gilead Sciences on the new drug Harvoni. All in all it was very well attended and a great day of correctional health camaraderie. Dr. Stephen Mitchell, the Executive Director of ACHSA was in attendance and spoke on the benefits of joining ACHSA and encouraged the start-up of the North East Regional Chapter. This chapter will include members working or living in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. To join this new chapter, please go to our website at ACHSA.org and follow the prompts under the membership tab.