
Overview of PHSA Correctional Health Services

Correctional Health Services Connected to Continuum of Care

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) assumed responsibility for health care services in BC correctional centres on October 1, 2017. With Correctional Health Services now managed within the broader provincial health care system, clients will benefit from improved continuity of care as they move between correctional centres and the community. Previously, health services in correctional centres were provided by an independent contractor.

Correctional Health Services is operated as part of PHSA's BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS) portfolio, which includes Forensic Psychiatric Services. BCMHSUS provides health care services and expertise for people with complex needs, including severe mental health and substance use issues across BC. This involves a broad network of established external partnerships with regional health authorities, First Nations Health Authority, advocacy organizations and other health care agencies across the province.

Comprehensive support for clients

Clients in correctional centres routinely experience significant medical needs and 60% of Corrections clients have a mental health and/or substance use diagnosis. As part of BCMHSUS, with expertise in mental health, substance use and Forensic Psychiatric Services, PHSA Correctional Health Services will support clients during their time in correctional centres, and when they transition back to the community. This stronger continuum of care, which includes close collaboration with the BC Corrections Team, will support improved client health outcomes.

Correctional centres in BC currently house approximately 2,700 inmates – including sentenced inmates and those awaiting trial – at ten correctional centres throughout the province. In 2016, correctional centres saw more than 37,000 individual intakes and releases and Correctional Health Services anticipates approximately 18,000 new clients per year entering BC's provincial correctional centres:

- Alouette Correctional Centre for Women (ACCW), Maple Ridge
- Ford Mountain Correctional Centre (FMCC), Chilliwack
- Fraser Regional Correctional Centre (FRCC), Maple Ridge
- Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre (KRCC), Kamloops
- Nanaimo Correctional Centre (NCC), Nanaimo
- North Fraser Pretrial Centre (NFPC), Port Coquitlam
- Okanagan Correctional Centre (OCC), Oliver
- Prince George Regional Correctional Centre (PGRCC), Prince George
- Surrey Pretrial Services Centre (SPSC), Surrey
- Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (VIRCC), Victoria

Contact us

- For general information, visit: <http://www.bcmhsus.ca/correctional-health-services>
- For career-related information, visit www.phsa.ca/careers.

Model of Care Strengthens Connections to Community

BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS) is committed to supporting clients with evidence informed, best practice care. A new Model of Care was developed, and continues to be refined, to meet the complex needs of this vulnerable population during their time in custody and as they transition back to the community.

Cultural safety and trauma informed practice are foundational to the new Model of Care. The Correctional Health Services team is committed to meeting the needs of clients across the province, including the unique requirements of specialized populations such as women, Indigenous, aging and transgendered people. Many of these clients have complex medical, mental health and substance use challenges.

Complex clients, integrated care

Health care services for clients in correctional centres will be integrated with those provided by PHSA, the regional health authorities, the First Nations Health Authority and community service providers to support seamless, continuous care as clients in custody transition to community.

A complex and diverse client population, located in facilities across the province presents challenges for consistent service delivery. This will be addressed through integrated inter-professional health care teams located in each centre and supported by innovative technologies such as Telehealth.

Interdisciplinary teams include physicians, dentists, nurses, psychologists, administrative staff and allied mental health and substance use health professionals, working together to assess, screen, triage, treat and transition clients back to the community. This includes working with community-based providers to maintain a continuum of care for clients as they enter and when they leave correctional centres.

Experienced Leadership Team

The collaborative and committed Correctional Health Services leadership team offers decades of experience in BC's health care system, with specific expertise in primary care, mental health and substance use services. They look forward to connecting with colleagues across the province as they move forward with plans and priorities to enhance health services in BC correctional centres. Please note their contact information below and feel free to connect with them with questions or to discuss opportunities.

- **Andrew MacFarlane**, Provincial Executive Director, andrew.macfarlane@phsa.ca
- **Dr. Nader Sharifi**, Medical Director, nsharifi@phsa.ca
- **Maureen Sexsmith**, Director, Professional Practice, maureen.sexsmith@phsa.ca
- **Trevor Aarbo**, Regional Director, Lower Mainland, trevor.aarbo@phsa.ca
- **Richard Singleton**, Regional Director, Victoria, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Oliver and Prince George, richard.singleton@phsa.ca

Please direct questions to CHSfeedback@phsa.ca