Alternative Justice Models for people with addictions in Mexico

November 2011
Complex problem on drug use and abuse: Supply, Demand and Context.


Demand: Transforming “country-of-way” to consumer. Increased exposure to the opportunity to use and modification of consumption patterns in recent years (early onset, growing consumer trend in adolescent female population, poly-consumer) National Addiction Survey (2002, 2008, 2011), local and sectorial surveys.

Strength Federal capacities in addressing addictions issues (National Commission against Drugs and National Center)

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**Current Situation in Mexico**

- National Information Strategy for a New Life (Prevention campaign. 17 million people reached)

- National Network for people with addictions (323 New Life Centers, 113 Youth Integration Centers, 270 accredited residential treatment centers)

- Reference to health services by the Law Enforcement authority.

- Care for participants in the Therapeutic Justice Program (Nuevo León)

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**Sanitary context: actions in demand reduction**

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**Drug – Crime indicators in Mexico**

- 60% of crimes committed by drug users
- Relative prison overcrowding 30% (45,511 prisoners)
- 94.8% of prisoners use drugs
- Theft is the most frequent crime committed by drug users
- 42% of residents have not been sentenced
- The average time for sentencing is 5 years
- 54% of young offenders reported using drugs

Data based on information from the National Public Security System 2010 and the National Survey on Insecurity ICESI 2010.

**Background of the Project in Mexico**

- Opportunity to identify the topic of treatment alternatives to incarceration in the First Forum of Cities of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean EU - LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships, CICAD-OAS, April 2008.

- Linking Instrument between Justice System and Health System, and team training with the National Council Against Addictions. Regular meetings to assess the benefits of its possible implementation in Mexico (July-October 2008).

- Technical Feasibility Assessment legal in the states of Mexico (October 2008):
  - Oral Trials (such as procedural requirement for the implementation of the program)
  - Legal mechanism which allows a stay of proceedings
  - Provision of treatment
International Links

CICAD:

- EU - LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships, CICAD-OAS:
  - Mexico’s participation in the group of “Treatment Alternatives to incarceration”
    Visiting Drug Courts in Santiago, Chile and Ghent, Belgium. (March and June 2009).

- Presentation of Mexico’s progress in the 45th and 46th Ordinary Sessions CICAD, in Santiago, Chile and Washington DC.

- Dissemination of the experience of Mexico
  - Washington, DC (July 2011)
  - Buenos Aires, Argentina (October 2011)
  - Costa Rica, CR (November-December 2011)
United States:
- Visits to Drug Courts and continuous contact with experts
- Team Training for Addiction Treatment Court in Monterrey (2009) and visits to several drug courts in the U.S. (2009-2010)
- Mexico’s participation in the Annual Conferences of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) in
  - Anaheim, California (June 2009)
  - Boston, Massachusetts (June 2010)
  - Washington, D.C. (July 2011)
Addictions’ Treatment Court in Nuevo Leon (Drug Court)

**Project leader:** Superior Court of Justice of the state

**Participating agencies:** Supreme Court, Attorney General, Secretary of Health, Institute of Public Defense, Secretary of Public Security.

**Infrastructure operation:** 1 Court preparation trial and 1 Treatment Center of the Secretary of Health.

**Begining:** September, 2009. Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon.  
**Official opening:** August 31st, 2010.

- On June 21, 2011 the Addictions’ Treatment Court Program decreed the **absolute freedom of four people who have completed their treatment**
- Currently **52 participants**
- Authority will be provided 5 courts over the course of this year