ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE MODELS
FOR PEOPLE WITH ADDICTIONS
IN MEXICO

MR. CARLOS TENA TAMAYO
COMISIONADO NACIONAL CONTRA LAS ADICCIONES
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.

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

**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)

**Sanitary context: actions in demand reduction**
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)
International Links

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)

Developments in Mexico
 Developments in Mexico

- Addictions’ Treatment Court in Nuevo Leon (Drug Court)
- Entities in feasibility study stage
- Entities with regulatory conditions for the model: stay of proceeding.

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
THANK YOU
Carlos Tena Tamayo
carlos.tena@salud.gob.mx