

Abstract

Background: Care for addictological clients that have a conflict with the law has been provided by non-governmental organizations with this specialization for many years. From 2018, the prison service has begun to expand services for addictological clients with new jobs for civilian staff, for prison addictologists. The possibilities of addiction treatment in prison are becoming more diverse. The question is how the already established system of treatments is prepared for these changes from the point of view of employees of non-profit organizations.

Aim: The main goal of this research is to present addiction treatments in prison provided by employees of the prison staff and services for clients in conflict with the law, provided by employees of non-governmental non-profit organizations who come to prisons. The essence of the research lies in finding out how the established system of services for clients in conflict with the law responds to changes in the prison system due to the newly established position of prison addictologists and whether there is a certain cooperation between them.

Methods: The data were collected through qualitative research, using a semi-structured interview with the workers of the service for clients in conflict with the law and prison addictologists. A total of 10 interviews were conducted. The acquired information was rewritten into text and subsequently analyzed using coding and tracing methods.

Results: The research shows that if it is in the prison possible, both prison addictologists and employees of non-governmental non-profit organizations see the benefits in mutual cooperation. However, there are several factors involved in this process. These include staff working only part-time, irregular or infrequent attendance of staff from the client service sector in conflict with the law, and insufficient implementation and support of prison management programs for convicts with an addictive problem.

Conclusion and recommendation: The methods used in this research could be further improved. A personal interview would be more appropriate for this type of qualitative research. In the forthcoming studies on this topic, the set of respondents should be extended to include all staff in services for clients in conflict with the law and prison addictologists, in order to trace differing views and suggestions for improving co-operation.

Key words: services for clients in conflict with the law, addiction, drugs, non-governmental organizations