



UPDATING AND MODERNIZATION OF THE ATTENDANCE MODEL

The mental health plan leaves out a residential center for sick people

Mas expects psychologists to enter the CASS service portfolio in July

The program focuses on person-centered care and awareness to avoid stigma

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Andorra will not have a specialized residential center for people with mental illnesses, but will have «residential resources» according to the needs of each one. This was made clear yesterday by the Secretary of State for Health, Helena Mas, during the presentation of the Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health and Addictions (Pisma) which aims to achieve social change that fights against stigma and discrimination, in addition to offering in equal parts a general attention to the community and an individualized one to the most serious cases. Returning to the housing model, Mas pointed out that formulas are being sought, existing or innovative, such as a night hospital or the use of shared transitional flats, with the aim of «fleeing to send people to the foreigner». Currently, there are 32 people who need to be cared for in centers outside, as the Principality does not have the resources appropriate to their specificities, and although «not all of them are likely to return, because they change their environment it could have negative consequences for them, the idea is to give them a chance to be treated here. «For this reason, and although «we are still in the study phase», the Pisma already has a budget item dedicated to this point, of a total of 160,000 euros, and will be «a priority» to address in the coming months.

Another mainstay of the plan is suicide prevention. In this sense, the psychiatrist and advisor in Mental Health of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Pere Bonet, acknowledged that Andorra is below the European average (in 2020 there were three), but in any case, «It's a drama and action is needed to prevent it.» Awareness-raising campaigns and surveys are also being carried out, through which changes in society's attitudes towards treating mental illness must be noted. «The stigma has different degrees: anxiety is not the same as depression or schizophrenia,» said Bonet, who also warned that the health crisis caused by the coronavirus is not over and therefore new ones



►► The Secretary of State for Health, Helena Mas, and the psychiatrist and adviser to the ministry, Pere Bonet.



HELENA MAS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH

«We want to avoid sending people abroad [...] The idea is to give them a chance to be treated here.»

PERE BONET PSYCHIATRIST AND ADVISOR

«Andorra has [...] all the possibilities of having quality mental health care in the short term»

Suicide prevention, vocational training, and data creation are other key elements

may appear more psychological sequelae derived from it.

With regard to community care, which is «essential for the current model change», the Executive Adviser said that this «will involve more human resources, but not more physical structures», so that next month the teaching plans will be set up with the University of Andorra (UdA), because «in order to transform ourselves, we must first be trained». However, he considered that «Andorra has good professionals [...] and all the possibilities of having quality mental health care in the short term». «But we must all believe and row in the same direction.»

Another goal of the Pisma - and, in fact, the first goal of the Minister of Health, Joan Martínez Benazet, before the pandemic broke out

- is the inclusion of psychologists in the portfolio of services of the Andorran Social Security Fund (CASS). «We would like July to be a reality in July of this year», announced Mas, then admitted that «we still have to define the pathologies that will be included, the professionals that will be part of it, the referral circuits, the turnover, the creation of the evaluation register» and, obviously, to receive the approval of the same CASS.

All of this should help to create a data record, «a basic element of information», which also allows for better financial management of resources. And it is that «investing in mental health is saving in other matters, in addition to improving the quality of life of people», according to Bonet, who also indicated that the average expenditure on the

purchase of mental health services in Andorra is 55, 80 euros per person per year, slightly below the European average, which is 60 euros per person per year. «We have to improve,» he said.

Finally, and in terms of more specific figures, the psychiatrist noted that since 2019 the number of people treated has increased and, currently, the Mental Health Area of the hospital has four minors admitted and 12 adults. The number of adults going to rehab at the day center has also increased in recent years, from 14 in 2018 to 21 in 2019 and 26 in 2020. However, there is no exact overall number of people cared for in Mental Health, but it is estimated that it accounts for 4.5% of adults and 2.8% of minors in the entire population. ≡

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RENT

The Ministry of Housing has detected more than 6,000 vacant flats in 2021

Foreign investment in new construction in the last year reached 176 million euros, according to the indicators

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The Ministry of Housing has detected a total of 6,238 vacant flats in 2021 based on energy consumption data provided by FEDA services. This was stated by the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy: «they constitute approximately 15% of the total number of homes in the country». He also stated that «we do not know the type or use of these flats, we do not know if they are second homes, whether they are for sale or uninhabited.» The procedure followed by the electricity company is based on the «infra-consumption» that was registered in more than 6,000 flats mentioned above, which are located mainly in the parish of Andorra la Vella, Escaldes-Engordany and Canillo.

During the presentation of the housing indicators that took place yesterday at the headquarters of the Andorran Business Confederation (CEA), the director of the Department of Statistics, Joan Soler, stated that «more data and collaboration of the private sector to be able to work with guarantees and to propose solutions to the problematic one of the house». In this sense, Soler stated that currently in Andorra «there are a total of 46,052 flats, of which, if the remaining uninhabited homes remain, 65% are for rent, while the remaining 35% are on the market of sale». He also stressed that «the current circumstances of the market make it necessary to have about 300 flats of margin that serve as rotation so that people who change their property or decide to buy another one can leave the previous one free», which accounts for between 7% and 10% of total housing.

The Statistics Department's study shows that about 176 million euros in real estate investments come from foreign capital, according to last year's data. In this sense, it is worth noting the population growth, which is approaching 80,000 inhabitants, becoming more evident in the parishes of Canillo, La Massana and Ordino. In addition, Soler emphasized



► The President of the CEA, Gerard Cadena, the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy, and the Director of the Statistics Department, Joan Soler.



VÍCTOR FILLOY
MINISTER OF LAND AND HOUSING

«This tool responds to criteria of good governance and transparency in order to solve this problem»

«We are just starting this project in which we will incorporate more sources of information with the collaboration of the municipalities»

that «the internal migratory balance is greater between the capital and Escaldes-Engordany and vice versa; but the tendency of households is to concentrate fewer people in the home.

A FREE PUBLIC TOOL // The housing indicator system is an online system with free public information that can be updated in real time «in order to fine-tune policy decisions on

rent and housing», according to Filloy. These indicators follow various parameters to draw the reality of the apartment market. On the one hand, the system has a section that refers to demand, which details different variables such as the number of residents, immigration and natural growth in parishes, among others. Then, the characteristics of the offer, which details data such as the increase in the average rental price from 2016 to today. Finally, the indicators are based on housing policies such as rent subsidies and extensions and emancipation programs. In this sense, Filloy stated that this tool «responds to criteria of good governance and transparency in housing to solve this problem» and also takes into account the data generated from surveys

conducted by Andorra Research + Innovation.

On the other hand, the website of the indicators has a simulator that allows you to create future situations by combining the data of the housing indicator system. In this way, hypotheses can be made about different parameters, such as economic and population growth, and, consequently, a projection of the future needs of rental or purchase flats.

The Minister of Housing emphasized that «this project for citizens is just beginning and new sources of information will be implemented in collaboration with the municipalities». He also indicated that he wanted to expand the scope of the information by «expanding the questions in the family budget survey.»

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