



HEALTH

A multipurpose center in mental health, the new goal of the Government

But a change in health transport is not considered, although it is an existing possibility

The oncology service is one of the pillars to be promoted, but it will continue without a radiotherapy unit

EL PERIÒDIC
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Mental health could have its own multipurpose center from next year. This is what the Minister of Health, Helena Mas, said last Wednesday, in statements following the presentation of the new strategic lines of her ministry before the legislative committee of Health: «Our intention is to bring together all the resources around mental health and take 'them out of the hospital', with the aim of 'putting patients at the center of care and promoting community care'. It should be noted that, initially, the plan was to move the mental health day center to the Columnes building, but this idea was finally discarded in order to «enjoy a wider proposal».

The project is still in a development phase, where the Government has to see «what fit all the professionals and services could have». However, the idea is «that mental health care has a space close to the community in order to facilitate people's well-being», indicated Mas.

Medical transport, under review/ One of the other issues the minister referred to was related to non-medicalized medical transport, which could change once the winter season is over: «We want to guarantee the correct operation of the service and that the workers have the best conditions», affirmed Mas, emphasizing that «now we do not consider that there could be a termination of the contract and that the company abandons the service». An approach that can come in time for the season, where «we will analyze where we are, what the difficulties are and what the implications of a change of model can be». Even so, the minister made it clear that this issue is a fact that «concerns and concerns us», mentioning some of the actions carried out so far, such as the mediation process between the workers and the company started in July, which allowed «to obtain positive effects in relation to the conflict, although it did not serve to reach a joint agreement».



Helena Mas
MINISTER OF HEALTH

«Our intention is to put patients at the center of mental health care and promote community care»

«We want to guarantee the proper functioning of health transport and that the workers have the best conditions»



CONSELL GENERAL

► La ministra de Salut, Helena Mas, durant la compareixença de dimecres passat al Consell General.

THE ONCOLOGY SERVICE, VERY PRESENT

// As explained by Mas, the strategic lines that will lead this new legislature will be governed by three pathological blocks: mental health, oncological diseases and chronic and complex pathologies. Three transversal axes which, together with the four strategic pillars, will «mark the roadmap of the Ministry of Health». Regarding the oncology service, the minister stated that the aim is «to develop a comprehensive national plan that responds to the needs of patients in relation to these pathologies, from prevention to treatment». In order to achieve this, several actions will be launched, such as the

one referring to «covering the diets, transport and accommodation of those patients who have to travel outside Andorra to receive radiotherapy treatment». In addition, the care giver decree will also be revised, in order to «modify and improve the services provided, as well as promote care giver under better conditions». However,

The Ministry of Health wants to give SIAD more visibility, not focusing only on family planning moments

Mas was also very clear in her denial that the country will soon have a radiotherapy unit, even though work is being done so that «breast cancer surgery can be done here».

FOUR STRATEGIC LINES TO FOLLOW// Health promotion and disease prevention will be the first of these four lines that will mark the ministry's road map, where issues such as health promotion actions, the plan of preparation and response to public health emergencies or everything to do with sexual and emotional health. Regarding the latter, Mas emphasized the tool of the Comprehensive Service for Women (SIAD), de-

veloped in 2020 and which has been very well accepted by the people: «We must evaluate its operation and see what their needs are. One of them is to make it more visible to reach more people and not only to focus on family planning moments, but also to respond, for example, to men's sexual health.»

The second of the strategic lines will come from the hand of access to quality healthcare, where human resources will be strengthened through the development of mechanisms and the collection of talent. Finally, the last two lines will focus on the sustainability of the healthcare system and on research and innovation. ≡

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Interview



«The concession for 50 years in Saetde is a ruinous deal for the town of Encamp»

MIQUEL ALÍS Major former consul of Encamp

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Miquel Alís was Consul Major of Encamp between 2004 and 2011. From EL PERIÒDIC we spoke with him to find out his position regarding the concession for 50 years in Saetde, after he expressed his disagreement in the meeting of village held this week in the parish.

-We are talking about the concession for 50 years in Saetde that was announced by the Municipality of Encamp at the town meeting and which is expected to be approved today.

-Saetde is a company that started in Encamp in 1967. They had a concession for 70 years and they still have 14 left to finish. Within this company, the municipality of the parish has 34.12%, the majority shareholders are the Viladomat family, who have 60% of the shares, and the rest belong to other small shareholders. With a few years left until the end of the concession, the majority partners say that they do not want to invest, which is why the Consul Major, Laura Mas, explained that the years of the concession must be extended and at the same time the ski area must be extended. I think, and this is what I said at the meeting, that it is time for the Municipality of Encamp to have a majority within society. It is clear that the majority partners will not want to sell their shares so that the municipality has the majority, but since the partners do not want to invest, the corporation must rescue the concession, and this is allowed by law. He can redeem it when the partners do not invest.

-You are against this concession, but the municipality does not see clearly the economic part.

-The municipality said that it would cost them 150 million euros to buy and when I proposed it at the town meeting, the consul told me that they could not afford to pay that amount of money. But given that the corporation already has 34.12%, it would really only have to buy 16% to get half of it, and that would be 24 million euros, a very acceptable figure for the Muni-



► Image of the major former consul of Encamp, Miquel Alís.



«If the operation is not done now, the Municipality of Encamp will no longer have the option of ever being the majority shareholder of Saetde»

cipality of Encamp. The other shares he would buy would have to be sold to the village of Encamp, to the rest of Andorra and, finally, to other investors.

-Why do you think this would work better?

-Because if today the municipality decides to extend the concession from 14 to 50 years, the value of the shares will be multiplied by 3.5. If it is not done now, the municipality will never again be able to do the operation to become a majority shareholder. It would cost him much more. If now it is 24 million, after the agreement it will be close to 100. It multiplies because if you have a business for 14 years or for 50 it is not the same, there is more margin. The annual balance of Saetde last year was 9 million euros and this is money that could enter the municipality and distribute it with the members of the parish. If this operation is done, the majority partners will earn 235 million in a single day. Few companies in Andorra earn this amount in such a short time.

-If everything is benefits for the municipality, why do you decide to do the opposite and extend the concession?

-For years now, the majority partner has been looking to extend the con-

cession in terms of years and territory. In 2015, an agreement of intent was signed to expand it. Legally, it is clear: if the council makes a set of rules, many people will show up, but I have the impression that the council wants to give it to them. In 2018 they made another investment agreement and now what they want to do is extend the concession, a fact that for me is a mistake. The concession expanded over the years and the territory, taking one that belonged to Encamp and Canillo (Concòrdia). When I was consul we divided the land and now the municipality wants to contribute it to the Saetde society. It goes from Les Bordes d'Envalira to Pas de la Casa. If I had known that today's commoner would give it away, I wouldn't have done it because it's useless. It should be done as was done with Gasopas, which the municipality has a large part of.

-Things have not gone as you expected.

-The municipality wants to give it to the majority members who are there now. And the reason why only the Municipality of Encamp knows.

-Economically, what is your assessment of the concession?

-It is a ruinous deal. If the 235 mi-

llion can be won by the municipality and the town of Encamp, I as consul would like to wear this medal. That's why I don't understand how they can prefer that the money is earned by others. The Funicamp station is in Els Cortals d'Encamp, a virgin valley, and this was not discussed on the day of the meeting. A village could be built there like those in the Swiss Alps, but the majority partners have never been interested in the Cortals being the base of the ski slope. Years ago they promised to put in a facility that is still there, but they are four rusty pylons that have never worked. I think that the majority shareholder has never wanted to do anything about it, because the land is privately owned and he wants to make the money himself and not the private people who are there.

-Is there any substantial change that causes the municipality to lose decision-making power?

-Until now, the municipality appointed the president and vice-president of the society despite not having the majority, but now the estates are changed and the majority group will choose it. There are things that until now needed the yes of the municipality and now it will disappear. The town of Encamp will lose a lot here.

-Do you think there is any option not to do it?

-I have made a document to explain these numbers to the public. I guess some councilors will look at it, although this should be reviewed by an expert.

-How does it work in the other parishes?

-Canillo and Massana work like this. The Municipality of Canillo has 51%. It is clear that an ordinary person does not have the capacity or the professionalism to carry out a ski resort. A company must be created under the directives of the municipality. Both Canillo and Massana have activities in the summer, but in Encamp it doesn't work that way because the majority shareholder only wants to have it exploited during the winter. ≡

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