



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan

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March 16, 2015

SENT VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Peter Govorchin
First Attorney Corrections Division
Office of the Attorney General
525 West Ottawa Street
Lansing, Michigan 48913
Email: govorchinp@michigan.gov

Re: ADA Investigation of Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, Michigan
Department of Corrections; DJ 204-37-333; 204-37-334; 204-37-335; 204-37-336
AG No. 2010-0034076-A

Dear Mr. Govorchin:

As you know, the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice (Department), along with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, has been investigating complaints of alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act occurring at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHVCF) since 2010.


As part of our investigation relating to mental health care and suicide prevention, Dr. Joel Dvoskin, a clinical psychologist, visited WHVCF on August 27-28, 2014 and September 17, 2014. Enclosed is a copy of Dr. Dvoskin's report of his findings and recommendations based on these on-site reviews. As you will see, Dr. Dvoskin has significant concerns regarding WHVCF's care and management of inmates on suicide precautions, inmates with mental illness, and inmates with intellectual disabilities. Most significantly, Dr. Dvoskin is highly critical of WHVCF's use of a particular type of restraint (*i.e.*, wrist cuffs, a waist belt, and leg irons, with the leg irons connected to the back of the belt) which he considers to be completely inappropriate to use, especially on inmates with mental illness or suicidal intent. As you will see, Dr. Dvoskin advises, in unequivocal terms, that the use of this type of restraint should be discontinued immediately.

We strongly urge Huron Valley to consider and implement all of Dr. Dvoskin's recommendations, especially those relating to the use of restraints. Dr. Dvoskin has indicated that he would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions that WHVCF's Warden or any other Michigan Department of Corrections official, including Dr. Rome, may have regarding his report,

his recommendations, or how to implement his recommendations. Dr. Dvoskin can make himself available via conference call. Please let us know if you wish for us to arrange such a call.

Sincerely,

MELLIE H. NELSON
Supervisory Attorney
United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section

BARBARA L. McQUADE
United States Attorney

SUSAN K. DeCLERCQ
Assistant United States Attorney

Encl.