



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan

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September 29, 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 (WHV) since 2010. Our investigation encompasses, *inter alia*, medical treatment, mental health treatment/suicide prevention efforts, and nursing care at WHV.


As part of our investigation we conducted a site visit of WHV on August 11-13, 2015, accompanied by Dr. Robert Greifinger, MD, our medical expert, psychologist Joel A. Dvoskin, PH.D., ABPP, and James C. Welch, RN, HNB-BC, our nursing expert. Enclosed are copies of their reports of findings and recommendations based on their on-site reviews. As you will see, although all the reports reflect and acknowledge improvements by WHV, they still detail concerns on a number of issues. For example, Dr. Dvoskin noted that male inmates within MDOC who are in need of inpatient or acute psychiatric care can be transferred to the Woodland Center, which includes acute psychiatric care among its treatment units, but there is no equivalent treatment facility for the female inmates at WHV who are in need of inpatient or acute psychiatric care. Dr. Greifinger identified problems with WHV's process for medication refills which can have significant medical consequences. And Mr. Welch noted concerns about nursing notes, medication administration, and actual or perceived problems with WHV's sick call process.

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We strongly urge Women's Huron Valley to consider and implement all of our experts' recommendations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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
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Encl.

cc: James C. Long (longj@michigan.gov)