



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan

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May 26, 2016

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, 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 April 12-13, 2016, accompanied by Dr. Robert Greifinger, MD, our medical expert, and psychologist Joel A. Dvoskin, PH.D., ABPP. Enclosed are copies of their reports of findings and recommendations based on their on-site reviews.

As you will see, the reports reflect and acknowledge significant improvements by WHV. However, they still detail concerns on a number of issues, some of which we have been telling WHV about for over 5 years. For example, since 2011, our experts have recommended that WHV mandate live, in-person training on suicide prevention on an annual basis. Similarly, since the beginning of our investigation Dr. Greifinger has consistently noted the need for WHV to expand its performance measurement to the clinical areas, including mental health, and to implement a more robust quality improvement program for both its medical and mental health programs. Other areas that still require additional attention include the quality of Suicide Risk

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Assessments, medication administration and management in special housing units, and monitoring medication side effects.

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
Assistant United States Attorney

Encl.

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