



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan

Susan K. DeClercq
Assistant United States Attorney

211 W. Fort Street, Suite 2001
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Telephone: (313) 226-9149
Facsimile: (313) 226-3271
E-Mail: susan.declercq@usdoj.gov

August 2, 2016

SENT VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Peter Govorchin
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. The investigation has encompassed architectural issues, medical treatment, mental health treatment/suicide prevention efforts, and nursing care.

On June 16, 2014, we entered into a letter agreement detailing specific parameters necessary to resolve these issues. WHV was to have completed all the required items by December 31, 2014. The resolution letter was later extended to December 31, 2015 and then extended again to June 30, 2016. By letter dated June 30, 2016, you gave WHV's response to our May 26, 2016 letter which had provided our expert reports of findings and recommendations based on their on-site reviews on April 12-13, 2016. That letter provides evidence confirming that WHV has completed the architectural modifications required under the agreement. It also describes significant improvements in medical, mental health treatment/suicide prevention, and nursing care that our experts have acknowledged. Accordingly, we are closing this matter.

However, we strongly urge WHV to continue to address the outstanding issues noted in our May 2016 correspondence. For example, we still maintain that WHV should mandate live in-person training on suicide prevention on an annual basis. Similarly, WHV should expand its performance measures in the clinical areas for medical and mental health and implement a more robust quality improvement program for medical and mental programs. Other areas that continue


to require WHV's attention include the quality of Suicide Risk Assessments, medication administration and management in the special housing units, and monitoring medication side effects. Although your June 30 correspondence indicates that WHV is taking steps toward improving several of these issues, diligent follow-through and consistent monitoring is critical for sustainable change.

This letter is limited specifically to the investigation as described above, and does not address the resolution of any other alleged violations of the ADA or other federal laws that may exist or arise.

We appreciate the efforts of WHV administrators and staff to bring this matter to a close. We will continue to alert you to complaints that we receive relating to this matter.

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

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