

## **OCO Inspection of Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center**

**March 28, 2022 - Housing Unit 7 Wing Right**

**Conducted by: Assistant Ombudspersons John Blakeslee, Kristin King & Anissa Jett**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center (ADTC) is located in Avenel, New Jersey. ADTC provides treatment and housing for convicted sex offenders found to be repetitive, compulsive, willing and amenable to sex offender treatment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:47-3 as well as those sex offenders who request and meet the Department of Corrections requirements to participate in sex offender treatment. The facility has three main sets of housing: general population for repetitive and compulsive sex offenders, a general population unit for those sex offenders not sentenced under the Sex Offender Act and a Restorative Housing Unit reserved only for ADTC inmates. The Department of Corrections reported the population to be 844 as of January 12, 2021 on its website. On March 28, 2022 the Office of the Corrections Ombudsperson (OCO) conducted an unannounced inspection of the 7 Right housing unit. The inspection consisted of two Assistant Ombudspersons with the aid of the facility's assigned Assistant Ombudsperson. The inspection consisted of visual observations, temperature checks and interviews with both staff and the incarcerated population. Five main areas were reviewed: living conditions, communications, recreation, food service and programming. The weather was brisk with a high of 34 degrees Fahrenheit with no precipitation.

The Assistant Ombudspersons arrived at ADTC approximately 7am to begin the unannounced inspection. The custody staff conducted the appropriate security checks at the facility's entry point, but did not obstruct the OCO's entry into the facility. Custody and civilian staff were professional and willing to provide any assistance as needed for the inspection. In order to reach the desired housing unit, the Assistant Ombudspersons walked through the facility and then on a short pathway outside. The outside elevated walkway is in need of repairs and had a temporary fix of metal plates. The OCO was advised by the ADTC Administration that the facility was approved to have the ramp repaired and are awaiting the start of construction. During this walk, the Assistant Ombudspersons were able to take notice of the facility and grounds. Both appeared to be clean with no debris or discarded items noted. Additionally, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) posters were hung in the hallways and on the tier for all to see.

### **SECTION I: LIVING QUARTERS**

#### **Observations**

7 Right is a general population housing unit designated for those who are sentenced to treatment at ADTC. The unit is comprised of four dormitories that include a common area or day space (Photograph #1). The dorms consist of a living quarter which includes beds and lockers for the incarcerated persons. Each dorm has a separate area for toilets, sinks and showers (Photographs #2 & #3). The Assistant Ombudspersons conducted temperature checks of each dorm and the shared day space. While Dormitories C and D were both at 69 degrees Fahrenheit, both A and B dorms were slightly cooler at 66 degrees. The temperature in the common area was 68 degrees. During inquiries with the incarcerated persons, the OCO received mixed reviews on the facility's response to extreme temperatures on the unit. However, it is noted that

the unit has both heating and air conditioning. The housing unit is well lit with no missing or nonfunctioning light bulbs or fixtures. Fire extinguishers with up to date inspection tags are available on the unit. Staff and incarcerated persons were viewed adhering to the Department's mask mandate. Security cameras are not currently available on the unit; however, the facility is in the process of installing cameras throughout the dorms and day space. The Assistant Ombudspersons witnessed some preparation for the installation of cameras in the dormitories. Overall, the appearance of the housing unit is tidy with no visible signs of insects, rodents or excrement.

7 Right has a total of 10 showers with each dorm having 2 or 3 showers depending on its capacity. The showers are in working order and clean, but showed age. The paint on the ceiling in both B and D dormitory showers is peeling (Photograph #4). Secondly, the OCO observed cracks in the flooring. A small hole near the shower fixture in Dormitory B is also in need of repair. All showers show some degree of discoloration in the grout, possibly mildew, but were in overall good condition. The incarcerated persons have the availability to shower during down time when they are not participating in programming or recreation and count is not being conducted. During interviews with the population, they confirmed that they are able to shower after taxing job details and/or active recreation.

The toilet and sink areas appeared to be in overall good condition. One toilet and a sink were covered with plastic, as they were not in working order. Per the housing officer, maintenance work orders were submitted to have both repaired. In addition to the washrooms, the unit offers two washing machines and a dryer (Photograph #5). The laundry is washed on the unit by an assigned incarcerated person. The machines appeared to be well maintained. The OCO also viewed the unit's utility closet which housed the cleaning supplies (Photograph #6). This office was advised by both the housing officer and the population that the cleaning supplies are made readily available at the request of the incarcerated persons and the unit itself is cleaned at a minimum of three times each on first and second shifts.

During the tour of the dormitory the OCO interviewed all available incarcerated persons. During these interviews, it was brought to the Assistant Ombudsperson's attention that the mattresses provided were of poor quality. The mattresses are thin and many have tears (Photograph #7). The OCO was advised that some individuals received a new mattress in the previous year, but many have not.

### **Recommendations**

- The OCO recommends thorough cleaning and/or re-grouting of the housing unit showers and continued maintenance and repainting of the washroom facilities.
- Replace those mattresses that are in poor condition with a new, thicker mattress.

## **SECTION II: COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Observations**

7 Right has four telephones and one JPAY kiosk, all in working order for the incarcerated persons use (Photograph #8 & #9). While there is no posted schedule for the telephones or the JPAY kiosk there were minimal complaints on their accessibility. During the inspection the OCO observed no persons waiting for either device. The OCO believes this to be due to the fact the incarcerated persons have ample time to access both. The population of 7 Right is afforded the opportunity to use the day space and its equipment

during the day unless the person is programming or the institution is conducting count. Most impressively, the unit offers an additional kiosk which acts as a telecommunication device for the deaf (Photograph #10) as it houses an individual that is hard of hearing. It should be noted that the hard of hearing are afforded a vibrating watch, as well as clear masks, that assist them during their time at ADTC (Photograph #11).

In addition, the unit offered the institutional forms for the population to request services or information via a shelf in the common area. The medical forms and commissary lists are posted in the day space for easy access. Both formats provided the incarcerated person with access and anonymity in their retrieval. The mailboxes for stamped mail, inter-institutional correspondence and the OCO are available off the unit in the main facility (Photograph #12). The incarcerated persons are to drop their mail during times they are permitted off the unit such as on their way to programming. While this does pose an obstacle for other institutions, at ADTC the population is required to participate in treatment; therefore, each person is afforded the opportunity to leave the housing unit without having to specifically request to drop off correspondence.

During the interview with the sample population, the need for an updated handbook was brought to the attention of the OCO. The handbook offers the rules, regulations and policies for the institution. While the handbook is available in hardcopy and on the JPAY kiosk, the most recent handbook for ADTC was last updated in 2018.

### **Recommendations**

- It is suggested an additional JPAY kiosk be added to the day space due to the capacity of the housing unit. Although there does not currently appear to be a concern about the lack of time on the kiosk, it is noted that the unit is operating at slightly less than 80% capacity. Should the capacity increase, it is likely that there will be a need for the additional kiosk.
- The OCO recommends the handbook be updated with the current policies and procedures for the institution.

## **SECTION III: RECREATION**

### **Observations**

As previously mentioned, the incarcerated persons on 7 Right are afforded the opportunity to utilize the common area during the day at down time when the facility is not conducting count and the person is not participating in treatment. This is a deviation from the standard passive or indoor recreation period, but works favorably by providing the population with a surplus of access to the JPAY kiosk, telephones and congregate time with other dormitories. The day space has tables with attached stools and a working television. It also offers microwaves and refrigerators for each dormitory. Incarcerated persons have access to enjoy cards, chess, checkers and art supplies, all provided by the facility. A small library or book exchange is in the common area for incarcerated persons to obtain reading material. The active recreation schedule is posted in the day space for easy view. The unit is provided three hours of active recreation a day. The three hours rotates between indoor and outdoor. This schedule provides the institutional population additional time for active recreation. In the negative, on the rare occasion of extreme weather the unit will not be permitted to use the yard, thereby losing an hour of active

recreation. However, the Assistant Ombudspersons were advised that an additional hour of outdoor recreation is afforded to the unit from April to Mid-October due to the later sunset.

The OCO was able to tour the gymnasium and yard used for active recreation. The gymnasium holds indoor recreation (Photograph #13). While the floor shows some wear, the room itself is expansive. The gymnasium has a full basketball court and a weightlifting space with ample machines. The weightlifting equipment and mats are torn, but are nonetheless usable (Photograph #14). All but two machines appeared to be in working order. There is also a volleyball net and wall ball for those who wish to enjoy a game. The OCO was advised that the equipment is thoroughly cleaned in the morning and by the population after each use. Additionally, it was mentioned to the Assistant Ombudspersons that a request for new recreation equipment was recently submitted. The recreation yard for 7 Right is good-sized (Photograph #15 & #16). The yard has a track for exercise, full basketball court, both free weights and weight machines, a soccer field and softball backstop. There was a large puddle on the track entering the yard, but due to the size of the space provided it only minimally reduced the recreation space.

### **Recommendations**

- As it was reported, the OCO recommends the purchase of updated active recreation equipment

## **SECTION IV: FOOD SERVICE**

### **Observations**

During the inspection the OCO was able to observe and participate in lunch. The institution's layout has 7 Wing split into two separate housing units, Right and Left. These units share a small kitchen in the middle. The food for the day's meals are delivered to the kitchen and maintained in refrigerators until it is time for preparation. The incarcerated persons working for food service were viewed wearing the appropriate safety gear comprising of masks, gloves and hairnets. A menu is posted in the common area for incarcerated persons' reference. The lunch consisted of chicken hotdogs, sauerkraut, baked beans, cooked carrots, wheat bread, individual containers of orange pineapple juice and ample condiments to include relish, mustard and ketchup (Photograph #17 & 18). Beef cubes were available for those with a diabetic diet. To the OCO's disappointment, the food was not served hot. The hot dogs, sauerkraut, and baked beans were warm, but could have been served at a higher temperature. The carrots were under cooked and cold. This was surprising due to the fact the kitchen is steps away from the serving area and the food is placed on a warming table. The baked beans had a nice flavor, but were very firm, which may be attributed to inadequate cooking time. The wheat bread was found to be fresh and soft and the sauerkraut was flavorful. The chicken hotdog and beef cubes were found to be adequate in taste. Overall, the meal appeared to be well-rounded, but could use improvement in the preparation.

In discussions with the sample population, it was reported that large trays of some food which are not favored by the majority of the unit are thrown away. Additionally, the population voiced concerns about the quality of food and that they depend highly on commissary for their meals.

## **Recommendations**

- Meals should be maintained at the appropriate temperatures particularly warm entrees.
- The OCO suggests a reevaluation of the menus to remove unpopular items. This will reduce waste and aid in the quality of meals provided.

## **SECTION V: PROGRAMS**

### **Observations**

Each incarcerated person at ADTC is required to participate in sex offender treatment. The OCO was fortunate to have the opportunity to discuss this treatment with the Rutgers Treatment Services supervisor. It was explained to the OCO that upon entry to the facility the incarcerated person is assessed and assigned a treatment plan. Moreover, an incarcerated person may request specific groups/programs throughout the duration of their stay. These requests are reviewed by the individual's treatment team for determination on appropriateness. The number of hours of therapy offered to the incarcerated person is dependent on their risk factor for being repetitive and other identifiers.

The tour proceeded into the Social Services and Education areas, where classrooms are set up for courses. The rooms appeared bright and modern with computers and ADA equipment for those with hearing loss (Photograph #19). The OCO observed orientation being conducted in one of the rooms providing guidance to those newly housed at the facility. Due to the fact of the encompassing mandated treatment, the institution provides limited Social Services programming. The two programs currently being offered are STARS, Successful Transition and Reentry program, and SEALL, Successful Employment and Lawful Living-Reentry Program. The waiting lists for each group were provided to this office from the Social Services Supervisor. The SEALL program has 8 individuals waiting to participate, while the STARS waiting list has 58. When the Assistant Ombudspersons inquired about the STARS extensive waiting list, ADTC staff advised that the current group was ending therefore a new one would be starting soon. As such, groups would continue on a rolling basis. Next, the educational courses include high school equivalency, adult basic education 2 (middle school) and adult basic education 1 (elementary). The facility offers two libraries, one for leisure reading and another dedicated for legal services (Photographs #20 & #21). The vocational programs are limited due to COVID mitigation tactics. Per the Administration, most of the vocational programs are taught by volunteers who currently are not permitted in the facilities at this time. In interviewing the sample population, they requested additional vocational programs and college courses.

### **Recommendations**

- With the appropriate guidance from the Health Services Unit, reinstate and if possible offer additional vocational programs.
- The OCO recommends the inclusion of college courses as this population is unable to request transfers to facilities which offer the program.

## **CONCLUSION**

The physical inspection ended at 12:15pm. The Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center is well maintained and operates in an orderly fashion. The housing unit inspected was clean, quiet, and was observed to be running in an orderly fashion. The staff were courteous and responsive to the inquiries from the OCO. The incarcerated persons were polite and forthcoming with their limited concerns. The meals offered may be improved with the appropriate temperatures maintained. The recreation equipment was aged, but was still in working condition. In all, the facility's Administration is aware and receptive to the incarcerated person requests, which is a strong indication of good communication within the institution.

## **Appendix**



*Photograph #1 Day Space*





*Photograph #2 Toilet & Sink Area*



*Photograph #3 Showers*



*Photograph #4 Ceiling Paint*



*Photograph #5 Washers & Dryer*





*Photograph #6 Unit Cleaning Supplies*



*Photograph #7 Mattress*

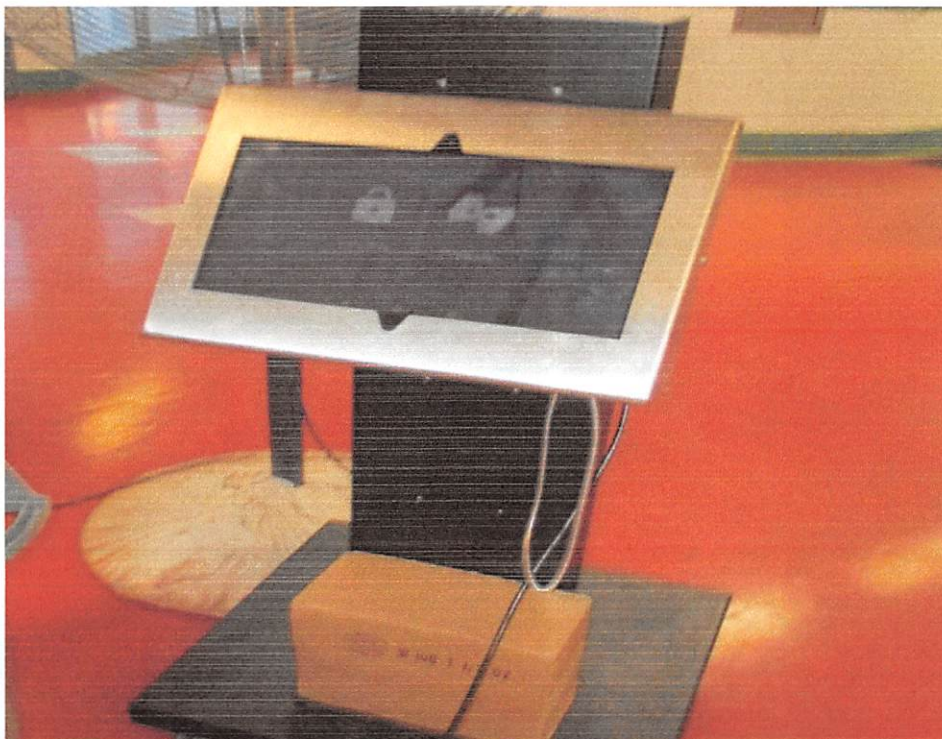


*Photograph # 8 Kiosk*

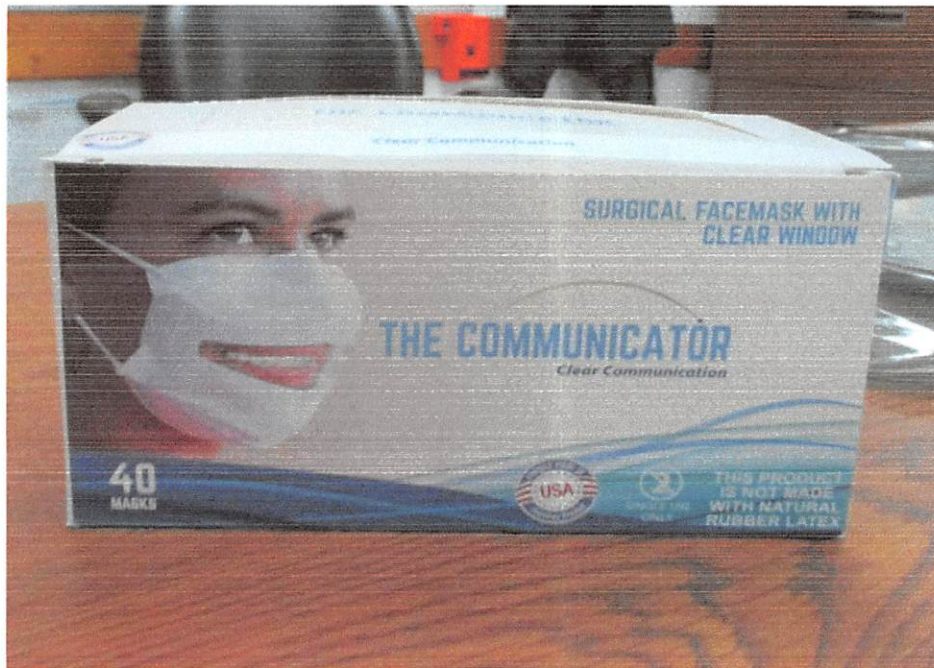




*Photograph #9 Telephones*



*Photograph #10 TDD Kiosk*



Photograph #11 Clear Masks



Photograph #12 Mailboxes





*Photograph #13 Gymnasium*



*Photograph #14 Weight equipment*





*Photograph #15 Recreation Yard*



*Photograph #16 Recreation Yard*



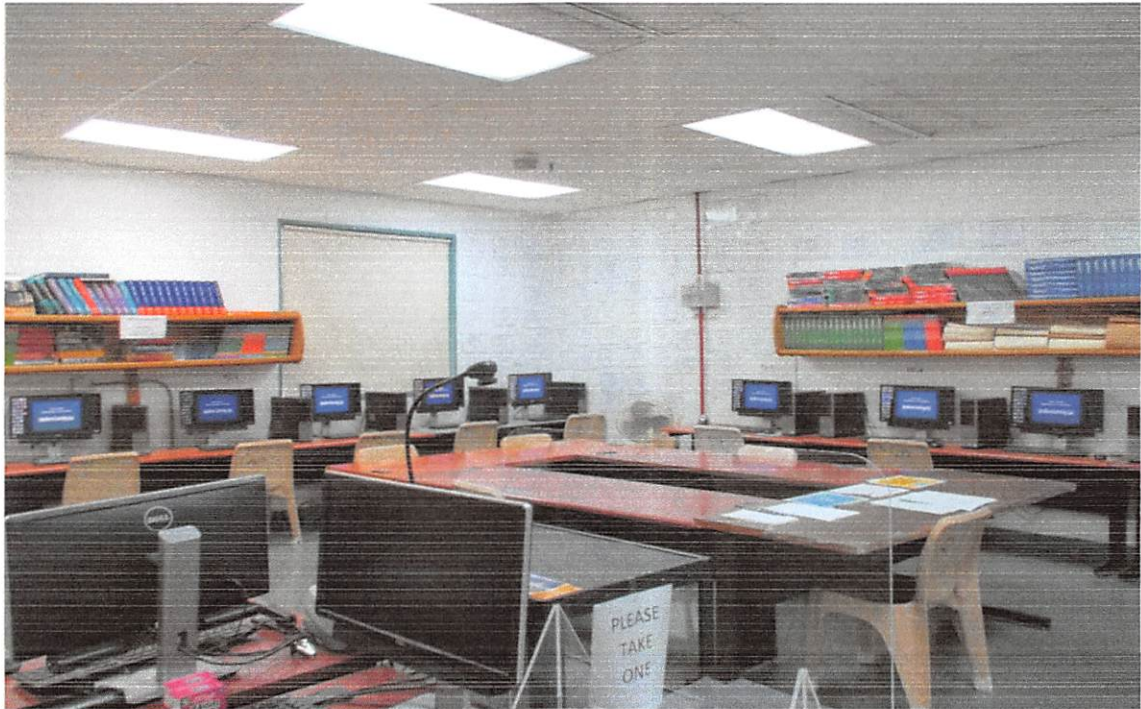


*Photograph #17 Meal Distribution*



*Photograph #18 Lunch*



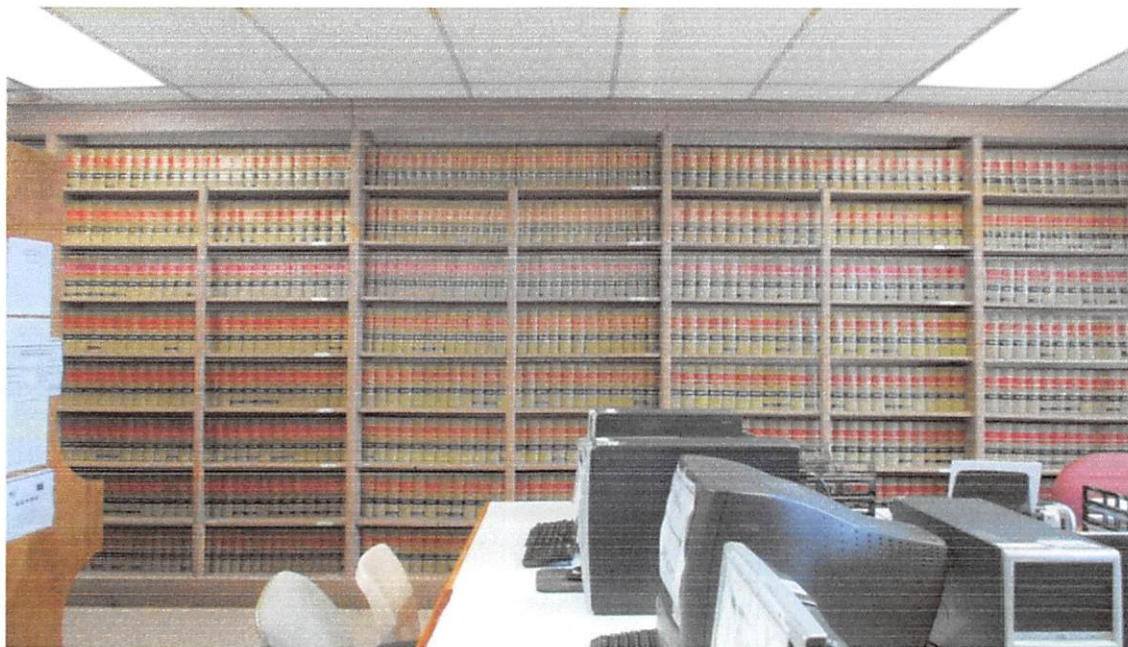


*Photograph #19 Classroom*



*Photograph #20 Reading Library*





*Photograph #21 Law Library*

This report was forwarded to the Administration at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center on April 6, 2022 for their review and feedback. Their response was received on April 8, 2022 and is included below. The OCO will continue to monitor the progress of the distribution of new mattresses, rehabbing of the showers, and looks forward to the updated handbooks.



# State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

WHITTLESEY ROAD

PO Box 863

TRENTON NJ 08625-0863

PHILIP D. MURPHY

*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

*Lt. Governor*

VICTORIA L. KUHN, ESQ.

*Acting Commissioner*

**To:** Anissa Jett, Assistant Ombudsperson  
Melissa Mathews, Assistant Ombudsperson  
Kristin King, Assistant Ombudsperson

**From:** Robert Chetirkin, Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Chetirkin", written over the "From:" line.

**Date:** April 8, 2022

**Subject:** ADTC Response

On 3/28/2022 the Office of the Corrections Ombudsman's Office conducted an unannounced inspection. There were some items discovered during the inspection that require remediation. The correspondence will address the shortcomings and the corrective action that will be taken or the measures that have been taken.

In the introduction, the inmate pedestrian ramps to the Housing Units 7 and 8 Wing was referenced as being in need of repair. The report indicated that the ramps had metal plates across the ramp to prevent pedestrian foot traffic from falling through. Please note that the repair to this is a Capital Construction item that has been submitted to have the funding obtained to make the necessary repairs.

The Assistant Ombudspersons noted that the 7 Right Housing Unit bathrooms had items in need of maintenance attention. The 7 Right bathroom is noted as having one toilet and one sink that were out of service. These two items were placed back in service after the Maintenance Staff made the necessary repairs. Also noted was that showers were in need of ceiling repair, paint and re-grouting. The shower ceiling repairs, painting and re-grouting are underway with an anticipated completion time of two weeks.

The Inspectors also pointed out some deficiencies related to the general population housing units. Another item pointed out by the Ombudsman's Office Staff was the inmates' mattresses being in poor condition. We will begin to replace the inmates' mattresses throughout the facility.

This will be broken down as a housing unit to housing unit project based on the cost associated with new mattresses. Also in question was the number of J-Pay Kiosk terminals provided to the Inmate Population. While the facility is not fully occupied, it would be in the best interest of the facility to increase to the number of Kiosk terminals for all housing units by one.

The inmate handbook for the facility was noted as being outdated. The inmate revision is currently underway and is expected to be completed sometime in the early fall.

Another item that was noticed as not being up to par was the exercise equipment in the facilities gymnasium. This matter has a few additional parts that are needed, such as a Board of Trustee's to oversee the funds within the inmate Welfare Fund. While some of the equipment was observed as being dated and in need of minor repair, a complete replacement would not occur until a Board of Trustees is in place.

The meals prepared for the inmates were determined not to be hot. This matter will be corrected by the Food Service Supervisor ensuring that a temperature thermometer is used on a random basis to ensure that the food being served is at an adequate temperature. While the meal was sampled and determined to be less than tasteful, it must be noted that the meals serve throughout the Department of Corrections is a Heart Healthy Diet with minimal or no salt added. The facility menu is dictated by the Department's Dietician.

The matter of programming was brought up with the Ombudsman's Office Inspectors who identified that some vocational programs should be reinstated by the Health Services Unit. Also, a portion of the population requested that college level courses be made available as the inmates population is unable to transfer out of the facility based on their sentence to the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center. The increase in both Educational and Social Services Program will be made through their respective directors. It must be noted that the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center provides programming dealing with and directly related to the offenses that the inmates have committed. The major of the sex offender treatment occupies the major of the day and will limit the time and attention that the inmate can provided to other programming opportunities.

In closing, the information contained within this response will be shared with the inmates during the next Tier Representative Meeting.

CC: Willie Bonds, Assistant Commissioner  
Christopher Holmes, Director