

REMARKS OF DIANE MARKS, DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
REGARDING STATE PRISON HEALTH ISSUES  
APRIL 23, 1993  
CITY HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS DIANE MARKS AND I AM THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. THIS MORNING I WANT TO PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SOME OF THE CHANGES THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IS MAKING WITH REGARD TO PRISON HEALTH CARE. UNFORTUNATELY, GIVEN THE AUSTIN CLASS ACTION LAW SUIT, AND THE ON-GOING LITIGATION WITH THE FORMER PROVIDER OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT THE STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AT CAMP HILL WHICH INVOLVES THE DEATH OF AN INMATE, BASED UPON THE ADVICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, THE SCOPE OF MY PARTICIPATION AT THIS HEARING MUST BE LIMITED. I AM RESTRICTED IN WHAT I AM ABLE TO BOTH OFFER AND RESPOND TO. NONETHELESS, THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO COOPERATE WITH YOUR INQUIRY CONCERNING HEALTH CARE WITHIN THE STATE PRISON SYSTEM. BECAUSE THIS PUBLIC HEARING IS INFORMATIONAL IN NATURE, MY REMARKS WILL FOCUS ON WHAT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IS DOING TODAY TO IMPROVE ITS HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A NEW INMATE HEALTH CARE BUREAU WITH DIRECT LINE AUTHORITY TO THE HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATORS IN THE INSTITUTIONS. THE BUREAU POSITION COMPLEMENT IS PROVIDED IN THE ATTACHED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION. THE BUREAU IS DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM HAS BEEN

DIVIDED INTO THREE REGIONS, WITH EIGHT STATE FACILITIES PER REGION. TWO INSTITUTIONS IN EACH REGION WILL BE DESIGNATED AS THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES. THREE ASSISTANT DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN HIRED TO SUPERVISE OPERATIONS IN EACH REGION.

MEDICAL SERVICES AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES WILL BE STANDARDIZED IN EACH FACILITY STATEWIDE. DIALYSIS SERVICE AND A HOSPICE PROGRAM WILL BE CENTRALIZED FOR THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

A STATE-WIDE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN, DEVELOPED CO-OPERATIVELY BY THE BUREAU QUALITY ASSURANCE CHIEF AND NATIONAL CAPITAL SYSTEMS, INC., AND AN INFECTION CONTROL PLAN, DEVELOPED BY THE BUREAU INFECTION CONTROL COORDINATOR, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

A CENTRALIZED QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW MONITORING RESULTS, FORMULATE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS, AND PROVIDE PHYSICIAN PEER REVIEW OF CLINICAL PRACTICE.

THE BUREAU IS ALSO DEVELOPING PROCEDURES FOR THE MONITORING OF VENDOR CONTRACT COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE STANDARDS.

THE CHANGES IN OUR SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE US WITH AN ENHANCED CAPACITY TO MANAGE THE FUNCTIONS MORE EFFICIENTLY WHILE CONTINUING TO ENSURE THAT QUALITY CARE IS PROVIDED TO THOSE INCARCERATED.

AGAIN, I REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO RESPOND TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TODAY, BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THIS COMMITTEE IN ITS REVIEW OF OUR PRISON HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM.

# Health Care Services Bureau Organization Chart

