

CALIFORNIA
PRISON HEALTH CARE
RECEIVERSHIP CORP.

J. Clark Kelso
Receiver

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 23, 2008

Joanne M. Brown, J.D., M.S.W.
51 Starview Drive
Oakland, CA 94618

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for your comments on the Federal Receiver's Draft Strategic Plan.

Achieving positive and sustainable change in California's correctional health care delivery system will require the commitment and cooperation of multiple stakeholders. We recognize that Correctional Officers play an important role in the change process and understand that achieving long-term success will require effective communication at all levels of the organization. Inmate access to care requires coordination between medical and custody staff. To facilitate the process, Health Care Access Units at each institution have been placed under the direction of the Associate Warden Health Care Services, and operating procedures are being developed to define how custody will interface with medical staff to ensure timely access to health care services.

Over the last decade, the Department has made substantial improvements in the way that health care services are delivered to female inmates. The Receiver intends to build upon those improvements by establishing a prison medical care program that addresses the full continuum of health care services for all inmates. In program planning for the new health care facilities, for instance, the significant differences between male and female populations has prompted us to recruit state and national experts into dedicated sessions of the design process to ensure that the needs of female inmate-patients are not overlooked.

The Receiver sees physicians and mid-level practitioners as integral and inseparable components of a successful health care delivery system. To ensure an adequate number of primary care providers, the Department is in the process of implementing a program to recruit, properly orient, train, and retain competent physicians and mid-level practitioners, including Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners.

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Ms. Brown

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Again, thank you for taking the time to review and provide comments on the Receiver's draft Strategic Plan for Achieving a Constitutional Level of Medical Care in California's Prisons. Your suggestions concerning additional language in specific sections, as well as inclusion of an executive summary will be taken into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Clark Kelso", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. Clark Kelso
Receiver