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DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



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MEMORANDUM

To: James Dzurenda, Director
Nevada Department of Corrections

Through: Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD
Chief Medical Officer, DPBH

From: Vincent Valiente, REHS
For Paul Shubert, Chief, DPBH

Subject: Nevada State Board of Prison Commissioners (NSBOPC) meeting

As required by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 209.382, NRS 444.330 and NRS 446.885, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) conducts regular inspections of State Correctional Facilities. These inspections include:

- a) **Medical and Dental Services** based upon *Standards for Medical Facilities* as provided in Chapter 449 of NRS.
- b) **Nutritional Adequacy of Diet*** based on *National Dietary Guidelines*. Inspections of diet adequacy take in consideration religious and/or medical dietary recommendations for individual offenders, and adjustments of dietary allowances for age, sex, and level of activity.
- c) **Sanitation, Healthfulness, Cleanliness and Safety** of various institutions and correctional facilities which include a focus on food safety practices.

*Pursuant to NRS 209.382, NRS 444.330, and NRS 446.885, during each inspection of a state correctional facility, DPBH inspector/s verify that dietitian's recommendations are appropriately followed. Nutritional adequacy of inmates' diet is verified by onsite direct observations, document review and interviews with staff and offenders from that facility.

DIETARY/SANITATION INSPECTIONS (Table 1) “Critical Violations Identified During Annual Dietary Inspections of State Prisons.”

A total of fourteen critical violations were identified during the Dietary and Sanitation 2024 Inspections. Compared to 2023, the total number of critical violations cited in 2024 increased by two within State Prisons. Of the six inspected facilities, two had one critical violation; one had two critical violations; two had three critical violations; and one was cited for four critical violations. Additionally, there were four repeat violations out of the fourteen critical violations identified in 2024. A decrease in repeat violations were observed in the 2024 inspections. Table 1 also summarizes previous critical violations from 2017 through 2024.

Three of the six inspected facilities in 2024 had repeat critical violations as follows:

- **Equipment not sanitized** (Florence McClure Women’s Correctional Center)
- **Equipment not sanitized 1** (High Desert State Prison)
- **Equipment not sanitized 2** (High Desert State Prison)
- **Presence of insects/rodents** (Northern Nevada Correctional Center)

Further breakdown of Dietary/Sanitation critical violations identified in 2024 is summarized on pages three and four of this report and in Table 1.

Note: The letter "X" in Table 1 signifies a critical violation identified during Dietary/Sanitation inspections.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS (Table 2) “Deficiencies Identified During Medical Surveys.”

Two State Prisons are medically inspected each year. Table 2 summarizes deficiencies identified since the start of medical inspections. Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC) and Florence McClure Women’s Correctional (FMWCC) were inspected in 2024. Five deficient practices were identified at NNCC, and one was identified at FMWCC.

Further breakdown of the medical deficiency identified in 2024 is summarized on page five and six of this report and in Table 2.

Note: The letter "X" in Table 2 signifies a deficiency identified during medical surveys.

NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY INSPECTIONS

No nutritional adequacy violations were identified during the 2024 inspections.

Further details of the nutritional adequacy inspections are on page five of this report.

DIETARY/SANITATION 2024 INSPECTIONS SUMMARY

The following critical violations were identified within six State Prisons. The critical violation data can also be found in Table 1 of this report:

ELY STATE PRISON

1. Equipment was not properly sanitized
(Two high temperature conveyor dish machines were in disrepair “malfunctioning” at the time of inspection).
2. Potential for cross-contamination
(The potential for cross-contamination was noted during inspection which included culinary operations and increased offender population with respects to sanitation, food service, solid waste removal, and plumbing)
3. Water, sewage, plumbing
(A significant delay in the culinary Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the plumbing and flooring repair work was noted during the inspection. The project was previously mentioned for an October 2024 start date. However, no CIP start date could be verified at the time of inspection)

LOVELOCK CORRECTIONAL

1. Equipment was not properly sanitized
(The high temperature conveyor dish machines were in disrepair “malfunctioning” at the time of inspection)

HIGH DESERT STATE PRISON**

1. Equipment not properly sanitized/Potential for cross-contamination
(A culinary three compartment sinks had no detectable sanitizer at the time of inspection)
2. Equipment was not properly sanitized
(The high temperature dishwashing machines were in disrepair “malfunctioning” at the time of inspection and were not properly sanitizing within the correct temperature range)
3. Presence of insects
(The presence of live and dead cockroaches was observed in designated food storage areas of the culinary)

FLORENCE MCCLURE WOMEN’S CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

1. Equipment was not properly sanitized
(The high temperature dishwashing machines were in disrepair at the time of inspection)

SOUTHERN DESERT CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

1. Improper food temperatures
(Potentially hazardous food was not properly cooled after cooking)
2. Improperly labeled/stored chemicals
(Chemical containers were not identified/labeled to prevent misuse)

Improvements and upgrades to supportive culinary equipment were noted during inspection at Southern Desert Correctional Center for cold/hot holding, cooking, dishwashing, and food preparation.

NORTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

1. Potential or cross-contamination
(Substantial health hazards were observed within the Culinary Unit at the time of inspection. "Substantial health hazard" includes any factor or condition which has the potential to increase the risk and/or cause injury to public health. At the time of inspection, NDOC was operating under unsafe conditions which involved the culinary wastewater plumbing system)
2. Water, sewage, plumbing
(At the time of inspection, the crawl space under the culinary was flooded with wastewater. Further investigation revealed an un-repaired broken pipe or pipes under the culinary had resulted in the flooding of wastewater into the crawl space area)
3. Equipment was not properly sanitized
(The high temperature dishwashing machines were in disrepair at the time of inspection)
4. Presence of rodents observed
(Rodent feces, urine, and damaged food products were observed within the Warehouse operation)
NOTE: No evidence of rodents was observed within the Culinary and Bakery at the time of inspection. NNCC has made efforts to eliminate the ongoing infestation. No signs of rodents were observed in areas designated for food preparation, storage, service, and receiving within the Culinary and Bakery. The facility was encouraged to continue their current effective measures to eliminate the rodent infestation.)

*****The NDOC Compliance Enforcement Officer ensured corrective actions will be promptly taken by the facility for critical violations which could not be corrected by the end of each inspection.***

NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY 2024 INSPECTIONS SUMMARY

For 2024, State Prisons have been inspected for nutritional adequacy to ensure each facility was following the applicable Dietician certified menus. Zero violations were identified regarding nutritional menu compliance during the 2024 inspections. Inspections included food availability, recent meals served (previous 72hrs trays), certified menus followed including special diets, medical diets, common fare, and alternative diets, recipes, and utensils.

MEDICAL/DENTAL 2024 INSPECTIONS SUMMARY (Table 2)

The following deficiencies were identified. The deficient practices can also be found in Table 2 of this report:

Northern Nevada Correctional Center

1. Life Safety Code/Physical Environment
(Electrical hazard/exposed electrical components)
(Fire sprinklers obstructed or not maintained clean)
2. Infection Control
(Damaged vinyl on an examination chair in the Optometry Room)
3. Sterilizer testing and maintenance
(Facility policy regarding the sterilization of medical and dental instruments was not being followed. The most recent facility autoclave inspection tag was observed with a 2022 date)
4. Sterilizer training
(Sterilizer indicator colors were not being followed per autoclave instructions and indicator manufacturer's specifications)
5. Medications expired
(Several drug and biological supplies were found outdated or expired during inspection)

Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center

1. Infection Control
(Damaged to the vinyl on a trauma room examination table and on a dental room chair)

During the 2024 medical and dental inspections of Northern Nevada Correctional Center and Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center, interviews, observations, and file reviews based upon the *Standards for Medical Facilities* as provided in Chapter 449 of NRS, the following were observed as **In-Compliance** at the time of inspection, but not limited to:

- Hazardous waste disposal
- Medication administration
- Physicians' orders followed
- Emergency supplies available
- Inmate TB testing
- Staff TB testing
- Staff CPR certifications
- Inmate dental care
- Laboratory staff training and certifications
- Laboratory testing quality controls and procedures

- Offender consent to treatment documented
- Nursing coverage
- Staff health and safety
- Medical Records

Discussion points during medical inspections:

During the 2024 inspections of Northern Nevada Correctional Center and Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center, it was recommended by the DPBH inspection staff to the Nevada Department of Corrections to increase Officer and free staff awareness for the aging offender populations, especially at NNCC and FMWCC, which should include dementia and Alzheimer's training. This was a noted recommendation after discussion and interview with facility staff.

Included Attachments

1. Table 1. DIETARY INSPECTIONS – Critical Violation Identified During 2024 Annual Dietary Inspections
2. Table 2. MEDICAL SURVEYS – Deficiencies Identified During the 2024 Medical Surveys

Should you have any questions regarding the Biannual NSBOPC Meeting Update, please do not hesitate to contact me at 775-684-1061.

DIETARY INSPECTIONS (TABLE 1)

YEAR	FLORENCE MCCLURE								HIGH DESERT								SOUTHERN DESERT								ELY								NORTHERN NEVADA								LOVELOCK								
	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'	
Presence of insects/rodents								X								X							X						X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Handwash sinks not fully operational									X	X	X					X		X			X	X						X	X																				
Dented cans of food								X														X																								X			
Improper food temperatures														X	X							X	X																										
Refrigeration at improper temperature			X													XX		X				X	X					X		X	X																		
Improperly labeled/stored chemicals	XX	X														X					X	X							X																	X	X		
Potential for cross-contamination														X								X	X									X					X												
Expired/spoiled food																																	X																
Equipment not sanitized			X				X	X					X		XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X		X		X	XX		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			X	X		X		
Handwashing sinks not accessible																																					X												
Culinary staff hygienic practices cited														X							X	X	X							X																			
Hot holding equipment at improper temperature														X															X	X																			
Person-in-Charge not knowledgeable																						X																											
Water, sewage, plumbing																																	X												X				
Sub Total of Critical Violations/Year:	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	2	2	4	3	4	2	4	2	5	7	6	2	2	1	3	2	7	4	0	3	3	2	2	2	4	3	1	4	0	2	1	0	3	1	0	1	
Critical Violations Per Prison 17' - 24'	7								15								32								22								21								8								
Total Critical Violations	105																																																

MEDICAL SURVEYS (TABLE 2)

Deficiencies Identified During Medical Surveys

	NORTHERN NEVADA						FLORENCE MCCLURE					
	07'	10'	14'	17'	21'	24'	07'	11'	15'	18'	21'	24'
Infection control/hazardous waste disposal			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sterilizer testing/maintenance		X				X		X				
Sterilizer training		X				X	X	X		X		
Medication (expired/storage/secured)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
Medication administration issues								X				
Physician orders								X				
Emergency supplies unavailable	X	X			X			X				
Medications unsecured							X					
Inmate TB testing					X			X				
Staff TB testing	X				X		X	X				
Staff CPR	X	X					X	X				
Inmate dental care							X					
Lab staff/lab licensure	X						X					
Lab test (quality control/procedures)												
Physical environment				X		X						
Offender consent to treatment												
Dental tool accountability	X											
24 hour nursing coverage	X											
Staff health and safety					X					X		
Medical Records												
Violations Cited/Year:	7	5	1	3	5	5	8	10	1	3	1	1
TOTAL MEDICAL VIOLATIONS:	26						24					