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NEVADA HEALTH AUTHORITY
HEALTH CARE PURCHASING AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION

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October 17, 2025

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, NVHA

Subject: Nevada State Board of Prison Commissioners (NSBOPC) November 2025 meeting

As required by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 209.382, NRS 444.330 and NRS 446.885, the Nevada Health Authority (NVHA) 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, NVHA 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 four critical violations were identified during the Dietary and Sanitation 2025 Inspections. Compared to 2024, the total number of critical violations cited in 2025 decreased by ten within State Prisons. Of the six inspected facilities, two had one critical violation; and one was cited for two critical violations. Additionally, there were two repeat violations out of the four critical violations identified in 2025. A decrease in repeat violations were observed in the 2025 inspections. Table 1 also summarizes previous critical violations from 2018 through 2025.

Two of the six inspected facilities in 2025 had repeat critical violations as follows:

- **Equipment not sanitized** (Florence McClure Women’s Correctional Center)**
- **Equipment not sanitized** (High Desert State Prison)**

Dietary/Sanitation critical violations identified in 2025 is summarized 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. Southern Desert Correctional Center (SDCC) and High Desert State Prison (HDSP) were inspected in 2025. No deficient practices were identified at SDCC, and two were identified at HDSP.

- **Medication Administration** (High Desert State Prison)
- **Medication storage conditions** (High Desert State Prison)

Medical deficiencies identified in 2025 is summarized 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 2025 inspections. For 2025, State Prisons have been inspected for nutritional adequacy to ensure each facility was following the applicable Dietician certified menus. 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.

*****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.***

NVHA discussion points during sanitation inspections:

During the 2025 inspections of State Correctional Facilities, the following recommendations and discussion points were provided:

- New equipment and facility improvements were noted during inspections. This included culinary dishwashing machines, cooking units, holding units, plumbing systems, HVAC, electrical and improvements to physical facilities. Ensure all routine and preventative maintenance schedules are followed. Ensure physical facilities and equipment are routinely monitored for wear and recorded daily.
- Increased awareness of chemical usage within all facilities must continue. Ensure all chemical applications are followed with regards to training, identification, storage, separation, labeling, dilution, and proper disposal.
- The NDOC must continue to repair or replace damaged or unrepairable critical supportive equipment. This would include dishwashing machines and laundry units.
- Facility sewage and waste disposal systems must continue to be monitored for maintenance and system failures. This especially includes facilities not connected to public utilities, those who have Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS). OSDS components such as sludge lines, pump stations, distribution, aerators, pond liners, leaching fields, ventilation, etc.

Included Attachments

1. Table 1. DIETARY INSPECTIONS – Critical Violation Identified During 2025 Annual Dietary Inspections
2. Table 2. MEDICAL SURVEYS – Deficiencies Identified During the 2025 Medical Surveys

Should you have any questions regarding the Biannual NSBOPC Meeting Update, please do not hesitate to contact NVHA at 775-684-1030.

MEDICAL SURVEYS (TABLE 2)

Deficiencies Identified During Medical Surveys

| | HIGH DESERT | | | | | | Southern Desert | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 08' | 11' | 14' | 18' | 22' | 25' | 03' | 08' | 12' | 15' | 19' | 22' | 25' |
| Infection control/hazardous waste disposal | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sterilizer testing/maintenance | X | X | | | | | | X | X | | | | |
| Sterilizer training | X | X | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Medication (expired/storage/secured) | X | X | | X | | X | | X | X | | | | |
| Medication administration issues | | X | | X | | X | | | | | | | |
| Physician orders | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Emergency supplies unavailable | X | X | | X | | | X | X | X | | | | |
| Medications unsecured | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inmate TB testing | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff TB testing | X | X | | | | | | X | X | | | | |
| Staff CPR | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inmate dental care | | X | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Lab staff/lab licensure | | X | | X | | | | | X | | | | |
| Lab test (quality control/procedures) | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Physical environment | | | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Offender consent to treatment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dental tool accountability | | | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| 24 hour nursing coverage | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff health and safety | | | | | | | | | | | | X | XX |
| Medical Records | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Violations Cited/Year: | 7 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| TOTAL MEDICAL VIOLATIONS: | 24 | | | | | | 17 | | | | | | |