

# An Overview of Mental Health Services in the Nevada Department of Corrections

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EXHIBIT F MentalHealth Document consists of 46 pages.

☐ Entire document provided.

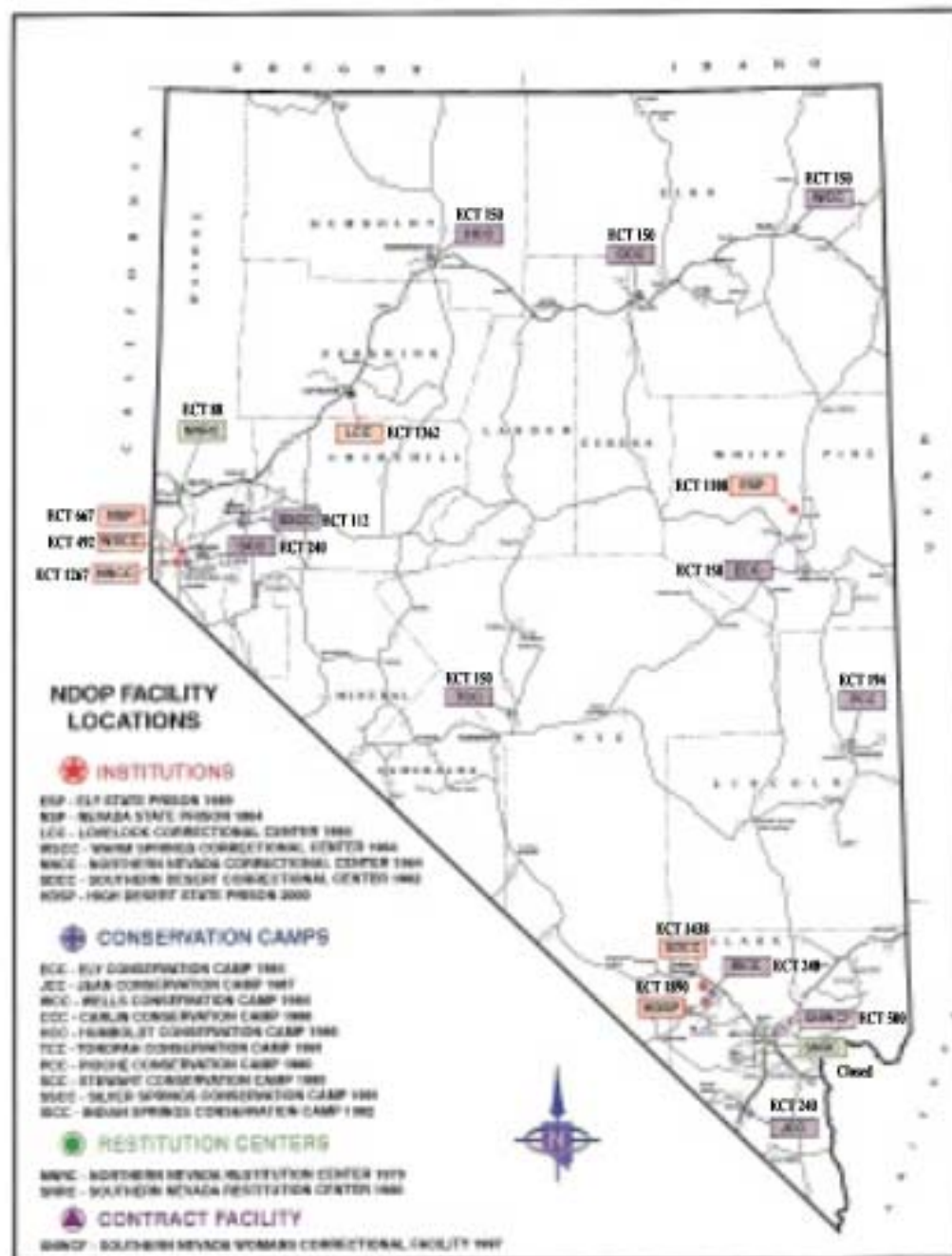
☒ Due to size limitations, pages 1-27 provided. A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).

Meeting Date 10/21/03

# NDOC Population

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- Nevada has 10, 442 inmates--92.5 % men and 7.5 % women-housed throughout the state in 20 different facilities:
  - 8 men's prisons (1 max; 6 medium; 1 minimum)
  - 1 women's prison (privately operated by CCA)
  - 10 conservation camps (8 for men; 2 for women)
  - 1 Restitution Center for men



# Of the inmates in Nevada:

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- 190 are in their teens (youngest is 15)
- 3,115 are in their 20s
- 3,341 are in their 30s
- 2,644 are in their 40s
- 921 are in their 50s
- 270 are in their 60s
- 56 are in their 70s
- 10 are in their 80s (oldest is 87)



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The federal government says that 16% of America's prison inmates are mentally ill.

# In Nevada, 13.69% of our inmates are mentally ill:

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- 1,295 suffer from **mild** impairment (needs mental health follow-up)
- 107 suffer from **moderate** impairment (fairly stable, needs continuing mental health treatment)
  - 28 suffer from **severe** impairment (needs special housing and on-going treatment)
- = 1,430 of statewide prison population of 10,442

# NDOC Mental Health

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- Initial diagnosis, assessment, and testing occur at Intake (during the first 2 weeks of incarceration) and a treatment plan is formulated
- If an inmate comes to prison on medications, it is continued until he/she is stabilized and seen by an NDOC Psychiatrist

# On average at NDOC

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- 679 inmates voluntarily take psychotropic Rx
- and
- 165 inmates involuntarily take psychotropic Rx



# NDOC Services

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- Mental Health Services are provided in Nevada's prisons by professional staff in both **in-patient** and **out-patient** settings.

# NDOC's professional mental health treatment staff consists of:

- 6 Psychiatrists
- 12 Doctoral-trained psychologists
- 23 Masters-level psychologists
- 4 Social Workers
- 2 Psychometrists
- 32 Psychiatric Nurses
- 2 Mid-level Practitioners
- 11 Drug/alcohol Counselors
- 1 Recreational Therapy Specialist

# **In-patient** mental health care is provided by NDOC through our Medical Division at:

Mental Health Unit (MHU) for acute care,  
located in Unit 6 at Northern Nevada  
Correctional Center in Carson City (capacity 62  
beds, 26 occupied)

Structured Care Unit (SCU) providing  
stabilization and sub-acute, “step-down” care,  
located in Unit 6 at Northern Nevada  
Correctional Center in Carson City (capacity 60  
beds, 34 occupied)

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Extended Care Unit (ECU) for chronic mentally ill, located in Unit 3 at Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City (capacity 30 beds, 20 occupied)



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Extended Care Unit (ECU) for chronically ill and some limited acute care, located in Unit 2 at High Desert State Prison, in Indian Springs, 40 miles north of Las Vegas (capacity 84 beds, 48 occupied)

Ely State Prison, limited general acute and chronic care for maximum-security inmates with expectations of a 48 bed acute care facility in Unit 1

Programs offered in the in-patient setting to stabilize the inmate and challenge him to re-integrate into his environment include:

- Current Events
- Medication Education
- “Doing Time”
- Art Therapy
- “Health Matters”
- General Psychotherapy
- Stress Therapy
- 12-Step Groups
- “Getting Out and Staying Out”

**Out-patient** mental health care is provided by our Correctional Programs Division, through the Unit Management system:

A psychologist is assigned to cover each housing unit at every NDOC facility

Those inmates are the treatment clientele for that psychologist

Each unit Psychologist monitors the Rx of mentally ill inmates and reports to Psychiatrist



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Each Psychologist handles crisis intervention in the unit and recommends in-patient care when deemed necessary

Each Psychologist offers one-on-one therapy and group counseling to inmates in the unit

Each Psychologist offers psycho-educational programs to inmates in the unit



# In addition, NDOC offers **Special Needs Programs** for

Sex Offenders (S.T.O.P.—a 48-week program of intensive therapy and education, offered at 5 prisons by 8 psychologists using standardized techniques)

Youthful Offenders (Growing Straight—a 1-year program for 14-20 year-olds (and some older but immature first-time offenders), offering age-specific activities, therapy, education, and groups, in Unit 8 at HDSP)

Art Therapy for low-functioning inmates at HDSP  
Substance Abusers

NDOC has 7 substance abuse programs with treatment offered by state-licensed counselors (LADC or CADAC):

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**OASIS**, at SDCC, a 200-inmate, 9-12 month intensive therapeutic community program

**WINGS**, at NNCC, a 172-inmate, 9-12 month intensive therapeutic community program (operated under contract by Vitality Center)

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**ACT (women)**, at SNWCF, a 50-inmate, 9-12 month intensive therapeutic community (Corrections Corp of America)

**DUI Program (men)**, at ISCC, a 36-inmate, 5-week day treatment program, followed by Residential Confinement (operated under contract by CiviGenics)



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**DUI Program (women)**, at JCC,  
individual and group therapy, AA and  
educational classes (duration depends on  
inmate's diagnosis and sentence), followed  
by Residential Confinement

**Substance Abuse Recovery (women)**, at  
SSCC, individual and group therapy, and  
educational classes



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**Boot Camp (men)**, at ISCC, individual and group therapy, AA and educational classes for inmates sentenced by court to 180-day Regimental Discipline program

Various other chemical dependency and relapse prevention classes

# Issues Relevant to Goals of the New Freedom Commission:

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**NDOC has been focusing on collaborations with mental health professionals in the community to involve families and assure continuity of care for our incarcerated mentally ill as they return home:**

July 2001, NDOC took a 10-member statewide delegation to a conference in Boston on “Mental Illness in Corrections”

**Result:** Agency heads agreed to move toward better integration of community-based mental health services with corrections and community supervision agencies.

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November 2002, NDOC jointly planned and participated in a summit in Reno to define the need for, and the steps to, integrating mental health services systems in Nevada



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The Systems Integration Project has devised systems and documents to better connect community mental health providers with NDOC, Parole Board, Division of Parole & Probation, and State mental health treatment agencies in local communities

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In our *Going Home Prepared* re-entry program, NDOC partnered with Mental Health Division's Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services agency (SNAMHS) to identify inmates with co-occurring disorders so they can be properly treated upon their parole

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NDOC worked with Dr. Carlos Brandenburg and Attorney General to get SB 90 passed which permits corrections and treatment professionals to exchange defendant and inmate medical / mental health information to facilitate assessments and evaluations and to assure continuity of care and discharge planning