



DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
SERVICES

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CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE
OF LOCAL
HEALTH OFFICERS

June 7, 2006

Mr. Robert Sillen, Receiver, California Prison Medical System
c/o John Hagar, Court Appointed Correctional Expert
Federal District Court
Law Library 18th Floor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Sillen:

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) and the 61 physician Health Officers we represent, I am expressing again our grave concern about the public health issues that are not being addressed in the State Prison system. We urge you to establish a Public Health Office in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) in order to address pressing issues. Enclosed is a letter from Dr. Scott Morrow, Past President of CCLHO, written in May 2004, expressing the need for such an office.

In addition, I am also enclosing my February 2006 response to your staff regarding their questions about Pandemic Influenza planning. We realize that medical care in the state prison system is in crisis. Not addressing the public health issues will only make the crisis worse. One proof of this is the many hours that local health departments and the California Department of Health Services staffs have spent working on an outbreak of Campylobacter in several state prisons. But even this outbreak pales in comparison to the troubles both the DOCR and the community will face if another multi-drug resistant tuberculosis outbreak or a serious influenza outbreak should occur. You simply cannot fix the medical care system without concurrently addressing the public health system. These two systems are inexorably linked.

We would be happy to meet with you or your designee to help you develop an effective Public Health strategy.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by:)

Glennah Trochet, M.D.
President, CCLHO

Enclosures