

Testimony
Department of Human Services
Interim Judiciary Committee
Senator Hogue, Chairman
April 2, 2018

Chairman Hogue, and members of the Interim Judiciary Committee, I am Rosalie Etherington, Superintendent of the North Dakota State Hospital (NDSH). In accordance with North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 50-06-31, I appear before you to provide a biennial report on the services provided by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) relating to individuals at the state hospital who have been committed to the care and custody of the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services.

NDSH provides three distinct behavioral health services; inpatient behavioral health treatment for individuals with severe mental illness and substance use disorders; residential treatment for individuals with severe substance use disorders and under the custody of the DOCR; and residential sex offender specific treatment for individuals identified as sexually dangerous.

The DOCR, since 2007, has provided a variety of security services, including security training, perimeter surveillance, emergency response, and security consultation. Over the past 24 months, 22 hospital staff received 660 hours of classroom based security training. Another 10 staff received additional specialized web-based security training.

Twenty-four hour perimeter surveillance occurs through camera and a roving officer. In addition, the James River Correctional Center (JRCC)

Security Director provides consultation for static security needs for the Sex Offender Treatment Program. Examples of static security are the security cameras, security fencing, and transportation measures put in place due to the unique security needs of the sexually dangerous. In addition, the JRCC Special Operations Response Team (SORT), available for riotous or violent emergencies, was deployed twice in this biennial period due to the extreme violence displayed by one sexually dangerous individual.

That concludes my testimony. I thank you and am open to any questions.