**Contact:**

**(Spokesperson, Title)**

**(Telephone Number)**

**(email)**

**(NAME OF FACILITY) AWARDED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION
FOR QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

City, Date – (Name of facility) has earned accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care by demonstrating compliance with NCCHC’s nationally recognized standards of care for mental health services in correctional facilities*.* Accreditation recognizes (name of facility)’s commitment to providing quality mental health services for the incarcerated population, a large proportion of whom have a history of mental health issues.

To earn accreditation, (name of facility) underwent a rigorous professional assessment in (month). During the assessment, a team of experienced physicians and experts in correctional mental health surveyed the facility for compliance with mental-health-specific standards in several areas including governance and administration, safety, personnel and training, mental health care services and support, patient care and treatment, mental health promotion, special mental health needs and services, clinical records, and medical-legal issues.

(Description of facility here along with specific examples of how the organization prepared for accreditation).

[Note to facility – please feel free to substitute your own quote or use this one] "We have a constitutional obligation to provide mental health care to those incarcerated in our facility, and we are committed to doing so with innovation, excellence, and efficiency,” said (sheriff, superintendent, or other leader). “I salute the mental health staff, custody staff, and leadership for their hard work and dedication on behalf of our patients.”

[Optional: “I would particularly like to thank our mental health services provider (name of company) for working so diligently with us to achieve accreditation. For (number of years), (name of company) has been our partner in delivering the high-quality care that accreditation now recognizes.”]

For 45 years, NCCHC’s highly respected standards have provided guidance to help correctional health professionals and administrators improve the health and mental health of their incarcerated populations and the communities to which they return, increase efficiency of health services delivery, strengthen organizational effectiveness, and reduce the risk of adverse legal judgments. The consensus-based standards are developed in consultation with national experts in correctional health care, mental health, law, and corrections.

"In achieving NCCHC accreditation, (name of facility) has demonstrated its commitment to quality, standards-based mental health care,” said Deborah Ross, CCHP, NCCHC chief executive officer. “Accreditation is a voluntary process, and we commend (name of facility) for successfully undertaking this challenge. The health and mental health of incarcerated people is a vitally important component of public health.”

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About the National Commission on Correctional Health Care

The mission of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is to improve the quality of health care in jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities. NCCHC establishes standards for health services in correctional facilities, operates a voluntary accreditation program for institutions that meet those standards, produces, and disseminates resource publications, conducts educational conferences, and offers a certification program for correctional health professionals. NCCHC is supported by the major national organizations representing the fields of health, mental health, law, and corrections. Each of those organizations has named a liaison to the NCCHC board of representatives to create a robust, multidisciplinary governing structure that reflects the complexities of correctional health care.