



★★★ Government
of the
District of Columbia

Department of Corrections RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 23, 2008

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D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MEDICAL PROGRAM RECEIVES DUAL ACCREDITATION FROM NATIONALLY-RENOWNED CORRECTIONS ORGANIZATIONS

(Washington, D.C.)--The District of Columbia Department of Corrections Director, Devon Brown, proudly announces that the Department of Corrections (DOC) has received medical accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) as well as the American Correctional Association (ACA). This recognition marks the first time in the facility's 32-year history that these services are certified by two nationally-renowned correctional organizations.

"This accomplishment represents the fulfillment of yet another milestone in our efforts to transition the Department of Corrections into national prominence," Director Brown emphasized while underscoring the monumental progress that DOC has thus far achieved toward this end. "We now hold dual certifications reflecting that we meet, if not exceed, national correctional standards. We are pleased with the stellar performance of Unity Health Care, Inc. and of the overall dedication of the employees of the Department of Corrections. This honor is in keeping with the unrelenting commitment to positive change in the furtherance of governmental excellence that embodies the Fenty Administration," Director Brown extolled.

"Unity Health Care, is pleased to play a vital role in this magnificent achievement," Vincent Keane, the president and chief executive officer for the private health provider said about the accreditation. "The partnership between the District of Columbia Government and our organization continues to flourish and benefit all involved including the inmates in the custody of DOC and the general public."

The Department of Corrections is the first detention system in the country to receive accreditation using ACA's 2008 standards, the most rigorous requirements developed by this organization to date. An independent organization, ACA is the oldest and largest international correctional association in the world and is dedicated to excellence in every aspect of the correctional field. The non-profit establishment recently redefined its accreditation requirements to focus on outcome measures that are critical

Office of Communications
1923 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
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to the consequences of programs. Prior efforts only measured the presence or absence of an operation, condition, or situation.

The Department of Corrections achieved 100 percent compliance on the 41 applicable mandatory standards and 98.6 percent compliance on the 71 non-mandatory requirements needed to obtain ACA accreditation. The only item found in non-compliance grew out of a recommended standard which was precluded from fulfillment due to the constructional design of the facility (i.e. ratio of available shower fixtures to the number of inmate occupants).

As part of the dual awards of distinction achieved this year, DOC sought and received re-accreditation from NCCHC after it initially granted the department this status in 2001 at the Central Detention Facility and 2004 at the Correctional Treatment Facility. NCCHC accreditation is recognized as the premier acknowledgement of sound medical practices within penal settings as this body is dedicated exclusively to correctional health care programs in jails and prisons.

Yet another defining event recently witnessed by DOC was the bestowment of the 2008 Carl Robinson Award to Director Brown for "extraordinary leadership and significant contributions to the correctional field" by the Mid-Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA). This organization is the leading regional, interdisciplinary association for professionals in the related fields of probation, parole, juvenile justice and corrections, representing members in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

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