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## **DOC REPORTS MOVEMENT ON INMATE HEALTH CARE**

**DOVER**—Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner Carl C. Danberg today released the first list of accomplishments in work to improve the inmate medical system. That list includes the following:

1. In compliance with the 2006 [Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA) between the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) and the State of Delaware, the Department of Correction (DOC) has completed a [\(Comprehensive Action Plan\)](#), which provides a detailed roadmap of the steps being taken by the DOC to improve inmate medical and mental health care.
2. The State of Delaware has entered into a formal agreement with former [Superior Court Judge Joshua W. Martin III](#) of Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP to serve as the Independent Monitor as called for under the MOA.
3. Judge Martin will lead a team of medical and mental health professionals in performing the duties that are established under the MOA. The Independent Monitor and the experts were jointly selected by the State of Delaware and the USDOJ.

Judge Martin and the team of experts will provide technical assistance to the DOC. They will also evaluate the DOC's compliance with MOA requirements relating to DOC policies and procedures, recordkeeping, medication and laboratory orders, staffing and training, screening and treatment, access to care, chronic disease care, medication management, emergency care, mental health care, suicide prevention, and quality assurance. The Independent Monitor is required to issue biannual reports on the DOC's progress.

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The DOC created Comprehensive Action Plan identifies the specific measures the Department of Correction intends to take to bring the four facilities covered by the MOA into compliance with that agreement. Those facilities are the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution, the Delores J. Baylor Women's Correctional Institute, the Delaware Correctional Center, and the Sussex Correctional Institution. The Action Plan was submitted to and accepted by the USDOJ. On December 29, 2006, the US Department of Justice and the State of Delaware entered into the MOA; by entering into the MOA, the state was able to allocate resources to improving prison medical and mental health care services, rather than litigation.

To review the resume of Judge Joshua Martin, the list of those on the monitoring team, or to review copies of the MOA or the Department of Correction Comprehensive Action Plan, please click on the links or visit the DOC website at <http://doc.delaware.gov/default.shtml>.

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