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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE NAMES SOUTH WOODS STATE PRISON 2021 FACILITY OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO—Nov. 1, 2021 The New Jersey Department of Corrections' South Woods State Prison, located in Bridgeton, New Jersey, has been awarded the National Commission on Correctional Health Care's prestigious *R. Scott Chavez Facility of the Year Award* for its delivery of efficient and effective health care services.

The annual award, given to one of 500 correctional facilities accredited by NCCHC, was presented at the 35th National Conference on Correctional Health Care in Chicago.

"South Woods State Prison has been accredited by NCCHC for decades, and during its most recent survey was found to be in full compliance with 100% of the NCCHC standards," said Deborah Ross, CCHP, NCCHC's chief executive officer. "Surveyors found South Woods State Prison to be a model for all other facilities to emulate. We are thrilled to be able to acknowledge their commitment to quality health care with this award."

South Woods State Prison is the largest and one of the newest facilities managed by the New Jersey Department of Corrections with a capacity to house more than 3,000 incarcerated individuals, including some of the most critically ill in the state system. Despite its size, NCCHC surveyors noted that close collaboration between custody, health care, and mental health care creates a positive culture focused on high-quality, personalized care, provided by Rutgers University Correctional Health Care.

"This award is a national honor that validates the hard work and collaboration of the NJDOC and Rutgers University Correctional Health Care in protecting the safety and health of those in the state's custody during the most challenging year yet," said NJDOC Acting Commissioner Victoria Kuhn, Esq. "We appreciate the recognition of the Department's efforts to fulfill its mission of operating safe and humane facilities with a commitment to the well-being of those in the state's custody."

Each of four compounds on the campus has its own spacious medical clinic that includes exam rooms, dental offices, and mental health consultation rooms designed to afford a level of privacy like that found in the private sector. Health care services also include a two-story extended care facility for patients who require total care, another unit for those who need assistance with activities of daily living, a 10-bed dialysis unit, and a hospice that pairs those facing the end of life with incarcerated companions.

“RUCHC is honored to have provided quality comprehensive health care services to the NJDOC since 2008,” said Julie M. White, MSW, CCHP, chief operating officer, Rutgers University Correctional Health Care. “In doing so, we have served members of our community who are most adversely affected by social determinants of health.

“RUCHC is committed as leaders in the delivery of effective, compassionate, and accessible care within correctional environments, and we are grateful for this recognition by NCCHC. We are equally appreciative of our multidisciplinary health care team and the NJDOC leadership at South Woods State Prison for their steadfast efforts to provide nationally recognized care during these challenging times.”

Photos available on request.

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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.

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