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Three Delaware Correctional Facilities Receive ACA Accreditation

Representatives from the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) attended the Commission on Correction (CAC) panel hearing at the American Correctional Association (ACA) conference in St. Louis, Missouri on Saturday, August 19. During this conference, the Morris Community Correction Center (MCCC), Central Violation of Probation (CVOP), and Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) received ACA accreditation. Accreditation signals compliance with over 1,000 industry standards including safety, security, inmate care, treatment programs, justice, and administration best practices.

In order to achieve accreditation, each facility was subject to on-site visits conducted by ACA auditors and given a score. MCCC and CVOP audits were performed in April; HRYCI was scheduled in June. The score must be in excess of 90% of the total standards under review. In addition, there are designated mandatory standards which must be met at 100%. If a facility attains a score in excess of 90% and meets all mandatory standards, they will be considered for accreditation at the next scheduled ACA convention. The audit chairperson submits a report of compliance to the panel for further review.

Panel hearings are the final part of the accreditation process and a facility is not accredited until reviewed and certified by an assigned panel of commissioners. These commissioners represent ACA and serve an elected term on the Commission of Correction. The ACA website describes the CAC as “the official accrediting body of the American Correctional Association. Created in 1974, the Commission is the official arbiter of accreditation status for all facilities and agencies. The Commission is comprised of a representative body of corrections professionals from all areas of the field- adult corrections and detention, juvenile corrections and detention, community corrections, probation, parole, and correctional health services.”

“I am grateful for the staff that made these accreditations possible,” said DOC Commissioner Perry Phelps. “Countless hours were spent planning and preparing for our audits and I’m proud of our Department for exceeding expectations and having some of the best facilities in the country.”

The DOC Central Administration Building, Sussex Correctional Institution, Community Supervision Units (Probation & Parole), and Sussex Community Corrections Center have already achieved accreditation.