



NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor

Presented by Jason Miller, Office of the Commissioner, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

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Howard R. Young Correctional Institution achieves national reaccreditation

Dover, DE -- Earlier this month, representatives from the Delaware Department of Correction participated in the American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter 2023 conference, where the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections voted unanimously to grant ACA reaccreditation to the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in Wilmington. During its discussion and vote, Commission members praised the DOC and HRYCI leadership for their investment in treatment, training programs, and other rehabilitative opportunities available at the facility.

“Howard R. Young Correctional Institution’s participation in the ACA accreditation process proves its commitment at all levels to implement the very best security, health, safety and administrative policies and practices, a willingness to be subjected to rigorous outside scrutiny, and a proven track record of continuous improvement to meet our public safety and rehabilitation mission,” **said Acting Department of Correction Commissioner Terra Taylor**. “I applaud each and every officer and staff member from across our DOC team who worked hard over many months to earn this facility recognition and demonstrate our shared commitment to excellence.”

[To secure ACA accreditation](#), correctional facilities designate a multi-disciplinary Accreditation Team that completes months of best practice analysis and internal policy development, review and implementation in collaboration with facility leadership. The accreditation process features a three-day on-site audit by a team of independent ACA auditors who conducted a comprehensive inspection, review files, and interview staff and inmates about facility conditions and operations. These independent audits are carried out to verify that facilities maintain and carry out policies and procedures related to more than 380 national standards. During its audit, HRYCI was found to be compliant with 100% of mandatory standards and 99.3% of applicable non-mandatory standards. HRYCI received its initial ACA accreditation in 2017, and earned reaccreditation in 2021.

More than a decade ago the Delaware Department of Correction set an ambitious goal to achieve national accreditation by the ACA, the leading international trade association and accrediting body for the corrections industry. In 2022 the DOC marked a milestone by [securing ACA accreditation across all state Level V prison facilities](#). In 2023, Delaware’s final Community Corrections facility achieved this

benchmark, completing successful ACA accreditation across all Delaware's correctional facilities and offices. Today, a total of 16 DOC individual facilities and offices maintain ACA accreditation, including 9 Level V prisons and Level IV community corrections facilities, 5 Probation & Parole District Offices, the Steven R. Floyd Sr. Training Academy, and the DOC Central Administration Building.

ACA is a private, non-profit, trade association and accrediting body for the corrections industry. The organization was founded in 1870 and is one of the preeminent correctional organizations in the United States. ACA accredits prisons, jails, community residential centers, probation departments, correctional treatment communities, and other corrections facilities in the U.S. and internationally, using their independently published standards manuals. The standards created and refined by the American Correctional Association represent fundamental correctional practices that ensure staff and inmate safety and security; enhance staff morale; improve record maintenance and data management capabilities; assist in protecting the agency against litigation; and improve the function of the facility or agency at all levels.

ATTACHED PHOTO, pictured left to right: Bureau of Healthcare, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Services Director of Policy and Standards Compliance Todd Kramer, Chief of Planning, Research, and Reentry Heather Zwickert, Bureau Chief of Prisons Shane Troxler, HRYCI Warden Brian Emig, HRYCI ACA Compliance Manager Captain Brian Vanes, HRYCI ACA Compliance Officer Michael Dunston, Statewide Compliance and Accreditation Manager Damaris Slawik, Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor.



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