



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

November 18, 2002
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Winder
(605) 773-3478

Prison Health Care Services Earn Continued Accreditation

(Pierre) - The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) has approved continuing accreditation of the South Dakota State Penitentiary, Mike Durfee State Prison and the South Dakota Women's Prison for compliance with the NCCHC *Standards for Health Services in Prison*.

The NCCHC accreditation program establishes standards for the quality of health services provided in detention and correctional settings, and assists correctional facilities continually improve their level of care.

Medical, legal and corrections experts develop NCCHC accreditation standards. The standards cover areas such as facility administration, maintaining a safe and healthy environment, personnel and training, health care services support, inmate care and treatment, health promotion and disease prevention, special inmate needs and services, health records and medical-legal issues.

The South Dakota Department of Health provides health services in the state prison system.

The Durfee State Prison first received NCCHC accreditation in 1994, the Penitentiary in 1995 and the Women's Prison in 1999.

More than 500 institutions across the country are accredited by NCCHC. For more on the accreditation process, visit the NCCHC website at <http://www.ncchc.org/index.html>.