Department of Human Services
Judiciary Committee
Senator Hogue, Chairman
March 22, 2016

Chairman Hogue and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Dr. Rosalie Etherington, Superintendent of the North Dakota State Hospital (NDSH). In accordance with N.D.C.C. 50-06-31, I appear before you to provide a biennial report on the services provided by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation relating to individuals at the State Hospital who have been committed to the care and custody of the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, since 2007, has provided a variety of security services, including security training, perimeter surveillance, emergency response, and security consultation. Over the past 24 months, 53 hospital staff received 1,644 hours of basic security training. Another 35 staff received additional specialized security training, including hostage negotiation techniques. Twenty-four hour perimeter surveillance occurs through camera and a roving officer. In addition, the James River Correctional Center Security Director provides security consultation for environmental and procedural improvements to the Sex Offender Treatment Program and Tompkins Rehabilitation Center.

Officers of the Special Operations Response Team (SORT) from the James River Correctional Center are available for riotous or violent emergencies; however, this service has not been necessary over the last 24 months. This is due, in part, to the additional training and procedure changes initiated by the NDSH that have reduced environmental risks and improved emergency response.

I would be happy to answer any questions.