

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Sylvia A. Lane 202.673.7316; [sylvia.lane2@dc.gov](mailto:sylvia.lane2@dc.gov)

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS' AND UNITY HEALTH CARE ACHIEVE NATIONAL RE-ACCREDITATION FOR INMATE HEALTH SERVICES**

Washington, D.C.—D.C. Department of Corrections' (DOC) Director Thomas Faust and Unity Health Care's President and CEO Vincent Keane proudly announce the national re-accreditation of the Department of Corrections' medical and mental health service delivery system by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC).

NCCHC, which is based in Chicago, Illinois, works to ensure the delivery of quality health care services in jails, prisons and juvenile confinement facilities throughout the country. Director Faust views this milestone as especially noteworthy because of the 17,000 intakes and releases processed by the Department each year. "The accreditation of our health services system reflects a steadfast commitment to the delivery of sound medical and mental health services to the inmate populations housed at both the D.C. Jail and Correctional Treatment Facility." President and CEO Keane also expressed pride in this accomplishment stating that "Unity is proud to have received the national re-accreditation of the Department of Corrections medical and mental health services. This announcement is proof that Unity and DOC continue to make strides with a partnership that benefits both incarcerated men and women and the public."

NCCHC accreditation is recognized as the gold standard for jail health care programs. The accreditation process is all encompassing with external peer reviews of all components of the system including governance and administration, safety, personnel and training, health care services and support, inmate care and treatment, health promotion, health records, medical-legal issues and special needs and services. Director Faust attributes this achievement to "the productive partnership between DOC and Unity Health Care. The dedication of staff, both medical and correctional, supporting all facets of our health services operation, is the driving force behind our success." I applaud each and every one of them for a job well done."

Since October of 2006 under contract with DOC, Unity Health Care has provided comprehensive medical services to District inmates using the Community Oriented Correctional Health Services (COCHS) model. This innovative model of service delivery not only focuses on medical care during incarceration, but also provides for discharge planning that connects those returning to the community with a primary care medical home. The partnership formed between Unity Health Care and the Department of Corrections continues to be a productive one that positively impacts public health in the District of Columbia.

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