



COUNTY OF MERRIMACK

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BRONWYN ASPLUND-WALSH, Vice Chairman, Franklin
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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEPHEN MARRO

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Ms. Ann Rice
Deputy Attorney General
N.H. Department of Justice
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Inspection of County Corrections Facilities pursuant to RSA 30-B:12

Dear Ms. Rice:

On September 25, 2017 Merrimack County Commissioners Tara Reardon and Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh conducted a tour and inspection of the Merrimack County Correctional Facility to include the new Edna McKenna Community Corrections Treatment Center which is now considered part of Merrimack County Department of Corrections facility.

The Commissioners found all positive impressions, nothing negative, to include the following:

Young staff and new leaders are emerging as a result encouraged to voice opinions and ideas. Opportunities for promotions and movement within the facility exist.

Initiatives that have begun include a dental van (which has exciting cost-savings opportunity); purchase of second video arraignment equipment; using protective door coverings to eliminate the need for constant paint touch ups; new flooring throughout the building and changing the design outside the secure perimeter to eliminate barriers and make offices more accessible.

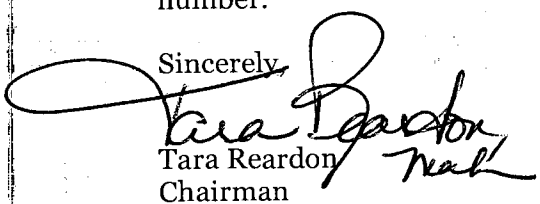
The DOC has forward thinking ideas regarding the open spaces in current facility when the new Community Corrections is up and running. In addition, through the Felony's First initiative, Department of Corrections has offered office space to the public defender's office.

The Commissioners were advised that there is a continued problem hiring staff. The DOC has on-going recruitment in process to battle this issue.

The Board of Commissioners will continue to make scheduled inspections of the correctional facility.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at the above number.

Sincerely,


Tara Reardon
Chairman