

REMARKS BEFORE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SCI-CHESTER APRIL 5, 2000
BY GLEN JEFFES CPS/PHS

CORRECTIONAL PHYSICIAN SERVICES (CPS) IS A PENNSYLVANIA OWNED CORPORATION WITH OFFICES IN BLUE BELL, PA. WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING QUALITY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR INMATES COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC) SINCE 1990. WE BEGAN WITH OUR INITIAL CONTRACT AT SCI-GRATERFORD IN 1990, FOLLOWED BY SCI-RETREAT IN 1991.

IN 1995 SEVEN OF THE EASTERN REGION INSTITUTIONS SCI-GRATERFORD, SCI-COAL TOWNSHIP, SCI-MAHANOEY, SCI-WAYMART, SCI-RETREAT, SCI-DALLAS AND SCI-FRACKVILLE WERE AWARDED TO CPS IN A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT. IN 1998 CPS WAS AGAIN AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR FIVE YEARS WITH THE ADDITION OF SCI-CHESTER AS A FULL SERVICE CONTRACT, WHEN IT OPENED IN APRIL OF 1998.

ON MARCH 30, 2000 AMERICAN SERVICE GROUP OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (A PUBLIC HELD CORPORATION) ACQUIRED THE ASSETS OF CPS FOR ITS PENNSYLVANIA CONTRACT. AMERICAN SERVICE GROUP IS ALSO OWNER OF PRISON HEALTH SERVICES (PHS), WHICH CURRENTLY HAS THE FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE WESTERN REGION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

TO-DATE THERE HAS BEEN A SMOOTH TRANSITION BETWEEN CPS,

AMERICAN SERVICE GROUP, AND THE BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOLLOWING THE ACQUISITION. MEDICAL SERVICES HAVE NOT BEEN ALTERED AND THE EXCELLENT LEVEL OF MEDICAL CARE IN THE EASTERN REGION HAS REMAINED INTACT. BECAUSE OF THE ACQUISITION THE NAME OF CPS HAS CHANGED TO CPS/PHS.

CPS HAS HAD A LONG AND EXCEPTIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DOC IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS, DEPUTY SECRETARIES AND THE BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

CPS/PHS CURRENTLY PROVIDE ALL HEALTH CARE NEEDS CONSISTENT WITH ITS PROPOSAL AND DOC, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. WE ALSO ARE COMMITTED TO MEETING ALL NATIONAL STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (ACA) AND NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE (NCCHC) FOR INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS ACCREDITATION.

CPS/PHS CURRENTLY PROVIDES ALL BASIC PRIMARY CARE SERVICES AS CONTRACTED. DAILY SICK CALL IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE AND IS DONE IN AN EFFICIENT TIMELY MANNER. INFIRMARIES ARE UTILIZED FOR SUB-ACUTE CARE AND PRE-OR POST-HOSPITALIZATION OF INMATES. A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP HAS ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH LOCAL HOSPITALS, WHICH PROVIDE ACUTE CARE.

A UTILIZATION REVIEW PROCESS IS IN PLACE AT ALL SITES AND IS

PERFORMED IN AN EFFICIENT AND APPROPRIATE MANNER BY THE ON SITE MEDICAL DIRECTORS. (LICENSED PHYSICIAN) THIS PROCESS IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE OUTSIDE MEDICAL COSTS WITHOUT A REDUCTION IN THE STANDARD OF CARE. IT ALSO RESULTS IN SAVINGS TO THE PA DOC AND TAXPAYERS BY REDUCING THE NEED FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OFF-SITE SECURITY TRIPS/ESCORTS.

CPS HAS IMPLEMENTED TELEMEDICINE DURING THE CONTRACT. THE TELEMEDICINE CLINICS CURRENTLY BEING DONE ARE INFECTIOUS DISEASE, DERMATOLOGY AND OPHTHALMOLOGY. THIS WILL BE IMPROVED UPON BY CPS/PHS DURING 2000.

CPS ALSO STARTED DIRECT OBSERVATION THERAPY FOR THE DELIVERY OF HIV MEDICATIONS AT TWO SITES (SCI-RETREAT AND SCI-CHESTER). THIS REQUIRES INMATES TO COME TO A CENTRAL LOCATION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATION WHILE UNDER DIRECT CORRECTIONAL OFFICER/NURSING SUPERVISION. OTHER INITIATIVES INCLUDE THE RENAL DIALYSIS PROGRAM AT SCI-GRATERFORD, IT HAS 8 STATIONS. THE HOSPICE AT SCI-WAYMART IS A 3 BED UNIT. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE TWO MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT UNITS, AT SCI-GRATERFORD AN 18 BED UNIT AND AT SCI-FRACKVILLE A 12 BED CAPACITY UNIT.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES HAVE BEEN REGIONALIZED, IN THE EASTERN REGION X-RAY SERVICES WHICH ARE PROVIDED BY LACKAWANNA MOBILE X-RAY, VISION CARE BY INSTITUTIONAL EYE

CARE, ORAL SURGERY SERVICES BY DR. LUCYK AND DR. ELLIS, ON SITE SURGICAL SERVICES BY DR. MOYER AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES HEADED BY DR. LEVINSON CORPORATE PSYCHIATRIC DIRECTOR. OTHER ON-SITE SPECIALITY CLINICS INCLUDE ORTHOPEDICS, PHYSICAL THERAPY PODIATRY ETC.

CPS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DOC BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES HAS DEVELOPED IN COOPERATION WITH THE 2 OTHER HEALTH CARE VENDORS; A HEPATITIS PROTOCOL FOR EVALUATION AND TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS C. OTHER PROGRAMS INCLUDE AN EFFECTIVE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, STAFF IN-SERVICE TRAINING, AND MEDICAL PROTOCOLS FOR PHYSICIAN.

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE FOR CPS/PHS TO SERVICE THE COMMONWEALTH. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING A POSITIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT. THE SUCCESS OF ANY SUCH PROGRAM IS DEPENDENT UPON A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE PA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HAVING BEEN COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AND SUPERINTENDENT OF 2 STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, DURING MY CAREER, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THE CURRENT STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE MODEL IS SECOND TO NONE NATIONALLY AND CLEARLY REFLECTS WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR BLEND

THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN A SOUND PROGRAM OF
CORRECTIONAL INMATE HEALTH CARE.