



State of Utah

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## Utah Department of Corrections Responds to Legislative Audit of Healthcare in Utah State Prisons

The Utah Legislative Auditor General released an audit today of the Utah Department of Corrections' (UDC) Clinical Services Bureau.

Overall findings showed that "prison medical professionals are generally dedicated employees working to provide quality care. However, systemic deficiencies, at times, threaten the level of care provided."

UDC's response to the auditor's findings can be found starting on page 87 of the audit titled, "A Performance Audit of Healthcare in State Prisons."

"We appreciate the close collaboration with the Utah Legislative Auditor General's Office, and we are generally supportive of their findings," said Brian Nielson, executive director for the Utah Department of Corrections. "We are committed to providing quality medical care to each person in our custody. Our team has already begun to address many of these areas of concern, and we have plans in place to find resolutions to these issues in the coming months."

All the recommendations presented by the auditors are scheduled to be addressed by March of 2022. UDC will also conduct their own internal review, which will take approximately a year to conduct. The goal is to ensure that all recommendations are effectively addressed and identify any other issues that may be found.

"We work in an environment that presents unique challenges in delivering medical care, and you will not find a more dedicated, resilient group of individuals than those who work for the Utah Department of Corrections," said Tony Washington, the Clinical Services Bureau director. "As a government entity, we are committed to always improving our operations, and we look forward to working with our team to implement these recommendations."

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