

From: [Harbin, Martha](#)
To: [Simone Aponte](#)
Subject: Additional information on Alameda
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2016 3:53:50 PM

Hi Simone,

After seeing today's coverage, I thought the following additional information may be helpful in covering this issue moving forward. I included yesterday's statement at the bottom:

The order in the *M.H. vs. County of Alameda (Harrison)* action provides in part that after December 31, 2015 only "Licensed California Registered Nurses or a higher level care provider (physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner) will conduct all Receiving Screenings and patient assessments on all inmates in Alameda County Jails..."

Since receiving the order, Corizon has been focused on trying to comply with the requirements of the settlement that would minimize the impact on existing staff. Many of the nurses who work in the jail have been with us for a number of years and are highly trained and experienced in the correctional healthcare setting. They are valuable employees and we regret there is no continued role for them under the settlement agreement.

In early December, after exhausting all avenues, it became clear there was no way within the constraints of the contract to add the required Registered Nurses and maintain the same level of LVN staffing, we immediately reached out to the National Union of Healthcare Workers to begin working with them as required by California law and our collective bargaining agreement. As our greatest asset it was important to us to furlough the nurses as close as possible to the December 31, 2015 deadline to ensure they remained on payroll for the longest period possible.

In anticipation of this transition, we began adding RNs to our staff in late summer and currently have 65 RNs on staff with another seven scheduled to begin orientation on Monday, January 11th, to fill 43.4 FTE RN positions. (*Note: Previously, we incorrectly stated the number of FTE RN positions is 43.6.*)

We strongly dispute the allegations being made against us and question the motivations behind these charges as we continue to provide quality care and ensure patient safety.

"As part of a legal settlement agreement stemming from a 2010 incident that occurred prior to the creation of Corizon Health, we agreed to exceed the nurse staffing standards established by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and employ Registered Nurses to conduct initial health screenings of inmates rather than Licensed Vocational Nurses. The settlement required this change to be made by December 31, 2015.

Corizon Health is in full compliance with the terms of the settlement. Accomplishing this goal is requiring us to eliminate 37.8 full-time LVN positions and replace them with 43.6 full-time RN positions. To date, a total of 49 employees have been furloughed with lay-offs effective January 23rd. We anticipate the full transition to be completed by the end of February.

Currently, no agency nurses are being utilized and all work schedules are being met.

This transition was accomplished in accordance with California law, our collective bargaining agreement with the National Union of Healthcare Workers, and in full communication and coordination with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Our patients have continued throughout this transition to receive quality health care that fulfills the requirements of our contract with the Sheriff's Office and meets the standards established by the NCCHC."

Background: *The NCCHC was created by the American Medical Association and sets the standards recognized by the medical professional as the benchmarks for establishing and measuring a correctional health services system.*

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