

# Prisons' medical service defended

By Michelle Starr  
Staff writer

A doctor with a plastic skeleton and drill box, national prison accreditation information and testimony from doctors was used Friday to defend the Nebraska correctional facilities against accusations of inadequacy to task force members.

The five-member task force, appointed by Gov. Mike Johanns to review medical services in the prison facilities independently, met for the second time at a public meeting Friday afternoon in the state office building.

Members of the task force listened to defense and asked questions to which the employees mainly used accreditation, national standards and physicians' testimony as a basis for answers against allegations brought by Dr. Fraisal Ahmed.

Ahmed, who spoke out against the level of medical care available to inmates, sparked a 14-month long investigation by the state ombudsman, Marshal Lux.

Lux and members of the ombudsman's office interviewed medical staff, inmates and prison authorities and released a report on Nov. 23, 1999.

The report documented testimony and cases that display inadequate medical care at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Dr. John Cherry brought a skeleton model with pins exemplifying a medical problem Rowland Linemann, a former

inmate, had after a car accident.

Cherry also brought the maintenance drill that he admitted to having used to take the pins out of Linemann's hips in April 1999.

Linemann, now released from prison, experiences problems with mobility because of the procedure.

Dr. Richard Elliot said he treated his patients to the fullest of his abilities and cited one instance when he went to the hospital to check on a drug addict who was experiencing pain from addiction.

He said many drug addicts require more care than other inmates, which means more time, energy and money. "(The patient was) in a lot of pain because he was a drug addict; many of them are, you know," Elliot said.

Dr. Jeffrey Baldwin, an associate professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha who works with addicts, responded defensively to Elliot's attitude of treating drug addicts.

"Addicts deserve adequate pain medicine just like anyone else," Baldwin said.

Jack Faulkner, assistant director of the state correctional services, defended the state and said since 1979 the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services has been accredited by the American Correctional Association. Nebraska applied for accreditation a year after the program began.

Harold Clarke, director of the Department of Correctional Services, said Nebraska is one of eight states that

*"When you're telling us a problem, it looks like no one has looked at it."*

Ann Morse

physician, Internal Medical Associates, task force member

has all institutions accredited, and most states in the nation aim for accreditation.

Accreditation is not mandatory but rather a matter of professional integrity, Clarke said.

George Green, legal counsel for the department, said the system adheres to Nebraska statute 181 that states all prisoners should have access to medical and dental care.

Green went on to say that Ahmed was the physician to take Robert Zolper off medication before Zolper suffered a fatal heart attack September 1998 and that he yelled at a nurse, saying she had killed Zolper.

Ahmed's attorney, Eric Brown of Polsky, Cope, Shiffermilller & Coe, said during the incident Ahmed yelled at a nurse and was given six months probation. The probation later was vacated on Nov. 22, 1999, by the Nebraska Personnel Board on the basis that he had been disciplined unjustly, Brown said.

Robert Woodson, health care supervisor for the department, said health care was sufficient for the facility and that a physician or nurse always was available.

He went further to say inmates typically have a high rate of wanting med-

ical attention. He said they want to be in the infirmary to escape work.

All inmates are required to be involved in some type of work; schooling is included as a type of work.

Women are four times as likely to require medical attention than men in the facility, Woodson said.

Dr. Ann Morse, a practicing physician with Internal Medical Associates in Grand Island and a member of the task force, said outside of incarceration, women typically require more health care than men, and the prison's statistic was not abnormal.

Morse also questioned internal and external evaluation of the medical facility.

"When you're telling us a problem, it looks like no one has looked at it," Morse said.

The task force is scheduled to view the state's correctional facilities themselves Feb. 25 - which is not open to the public - and the next public meeting is scheduled for March 3.

The task force did not hear testimony from Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen because time ran out. But the senator did have time to advise the task force to look into all of the facilities throughout the state.

Daily Nebraskan online:  
[www.dailyneb.com](http://www.dailyneb.com)

# Ireland's cabinet taken over

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) - The senior Protestant in Northern Ireland's impotent administration said Saturday that the Irish Republican Army must promise to disarm if the government is to have its powers restored.

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble emerged unscathed from a party conference in downtown Belfast, where his critics had planned to demand his ouster and the party's withdrawal from the 10-week-old administration.

But Britain had stripped the Cabinet's authority Friday and resumed control from London - saving Trimble's political skin.

The Belfast coalition of two British Protestant and two Irish Catholic parties, was the goal of Northern Ireland's Good Friday peace accord of 1998.

At a news conference in Catholic west Belfast, a downcast Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein, said Britain's determination to safeguard Trimble's shaky hold over his party confirmed that the Ulster Unionists could wield "a veto over progress."

The Cabinet was formed in November under a compromise plan mediated by American diplomat George Mitchell. But it fell apart this month over the IRA's continued refusal to start scrapping its secret weapons dumps, as the accord envisioned.

# Clothesline Project returns to campus

By Margaret Behm  
Staff writer

T-shirts and sounds that symbolize violence against women will be in the Nebraska Union today and Tuesday to bring about awareness to campus for the UNL display of Clothesline Project.

Holly Bahl, who helped organize the campus display of the project, said it will show people that violence can happen anywhere.

"Violence is a problem everywhere, and sometimes we forget about it because it's not always brought out," said Bahl, a graduate student in counseling and psychology. "This is a way to do that."

The project will be in the Rotunda Gallery and will display about 20 T-shirts made by violence victims.

"T-shirts that are made of their experiences will be in the gallery and bring awareness to this campus," Bahl said. "Making the T-shirts is part of the healing process for survivors."

Gong, whistle and bell sounds will symbolize different types of violence and show the frequency of occurrence.

A gong will sound about every 12 seconds to show how often a woman is battered. A whistle will go off

about every minute for how often a rape is reported. A bell will ring about once an hour to show that between three to four women are killed because of violence every day.

Mark Bartek, Prevent student group member, said the sounds are effective.

Prevent organized the event with the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center and the Women's Center.

"When you're standing there, and you hear the bell and you realize that possibly at that moment someone died because of violence, it connects you to it," said Bartek, a senior communication studies major.

The event focuses on women because 97 percent of domestic violence victims are women, Bartek said.

Even though the project is mainly about violence toward women, everyone could benefit from visiting the display, Matt Hedin said.

"It's a great experience that I wish everyone on campus would come to," Hedin said.

Hedin organized last year's event after he saw a similar one in Iowa. Last year's took place in the Harper-Schramm-Smith residence hall complex.

Hedin said he was impressed by

the effect the display had on visitors.

"The experience was overwhelming," Hedin said. "A few people had tears in their eyes because it had so much feeling behind it."

The display illustrates to women who have experienced violence that there are other women who have stepped forward to get help, Hedin said.

"I'm hoping that women will know they're not alone," said Hedin, a senior advertising major. "Hopefully, they'll seek help and know there is a support system out there."

It will also show men that violence against women is a problem, Hedin said.

"For guys, this will open their eyes that this is an issue," Hedin said. "For a lot of guys, they don't think it's a problem they need to address."

Bartek said violence is a fear that females on this campus have, especially when they are walking alone at night.

Bartek said he doesn't like women being afraid of him at night and wishes they wouldn't have to be.

"It bothers me when I walk by a female at night and that fear goes into her mind," Bartek said. "No one should have to fear anyone."

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# Celebrating Every Body

Don't weigh your self esteem...  
it's what's inside that counts!

February 14 - 18, 2000

A variety of events are planned to celebrate every body! Also check out special information booths & the media advocacy campaign at various campus locations (Check Daily Nebraskan announcements throughout the week for details!). Call 471-7450 for more information.

Sponsored by: University Health Center, Campus Recreation, Women's Center, SDRMA, Parents Association, UPC and Student Foundations.



## Schedule of Events

- Monday, Feb. 14  
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. "After the Thrill of Victory..."  
Nebraska Union, Auditorium  
Tiffany Cohen Adams  
Reception & informal discussion to follow
- Tuesday, Feb. 15  
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. "Hope in Healing"  
Nebraska Union  
Tiffany Cohen Adams
- Wednesday, Feb. 16  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. "BODY BAZAAR: Uniting Body, Mind & Spirit"  
Featuring "A Room with a View"  
Nebraska Union Lounge & Gallery
- Thursday, Feb. 17  
12 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. "Mirror, Mirror" speaks about body image,  
East Campus Union
- 4:30 p.m. "Freshman 15" speaks about healthful living,  
Campus Recreation
- 7:30 p.m. "How to Help a Friend", Nebraska Union