July 14, 2010

Christopher R. Chandler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Sutter
446 Second Street
Yuba City, California 95991

Dear Judge Chandler:

This letter is provided in response to the 2009-2010 Final Report of the Sutter County Grand Jury regarding the Leo Chesney Community Correctional Facility (LCCCF) located in Live Oak, California.

The following recommendations require comment:

**The Grand Jury recommends the LCCCF informational packets be updated**
We concur with the Grand Jury’s recommendation. The color brochure presented to the Grand Jury during their tour of the Leo Chesney Facility offers information about programs and services provided to the inmate population. In April 2010, it was announced that GEO Group, Inc. would be purchasing Cornell Companies, Inc. This acquisition is in process. Once the sale is final, the brochure will be updated to reflect the change in ownership, in addition to program modifications.

**The Grand Jury recommends the LCCCF solicit donated books for the onsite library**
We concur with the Grand Jury’s recommendation. Although the onsite inmate library is small, it contains over 3000 books. The book selections range in genre from science fiction, romance, drama, and mystery, to self help, reference, and educational. We have received generous donations from the Sutter County Library in past years, including a donation of over 500 books in January 2010. We will continue to accept donations in the future. Additionally, we are supplied numerous donations from selfless community members, sometimes on a weekly basis. As we are a small facility with minimal space, all donations are inspected for contraband and viability and stored in our warehouse (currently several thousand books) until needed to replace or rotate existing books based on need and interest. When storage space for donated books becomes an issue, we contribute to Goodwill Industries or the Salvation Army.
The Grand Jury recommends dental and gynecological services be provided locally. 

We disagree with the Grand Jury's recommendation. The LCCF contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) was approved for a 5-year extension on June 30, 2010. The contract does not require onsite or local dental or gynecological services be provided. If the facility physician or nurse practitioner assess that an inmate requires remedial attention due to a dental or gynecological issue, initial triage is provided and the inmate is transported back to our HUB institution at the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) located in Chowchilla, California. Prior to transport from CCWF to LCCF, all inmates are seen by medical staff where a physical exam, to include a pap smear, and dental exam is performed. All inmates received at LCCF are full duty (able to work any job) and medically cleared.

It should be noted that the Grand Jury's report, although thorough, reflected several inaccuracies. In the report, it reads, "There is a full-time nurse on-site. A doctor visits the facility on a weekly basis and is available for emergency calls." In actuality, the LCCF has 3 full-time nurses on-site (NP, RN, LVN) and the doctor works at the institution 20 hours per week; 4 hours per day, M-F. The nurse practitioner or the doctor is available for emergency calls after hours.

The report also reads, "Inmates with diabetes or seizures are not accepted into LCCF." It is true that inmates with a history of seizures are not sent to LCCF from CCWF. However, inmates with diabetes who are on oral medication can be housed at our institution. Inmates who are insulin dependent are ineligible to be housed at LCCF.

I apologize for any miscommunication to the Grand Jurors that may have resulted in these factual errors.

The Leo Chesney Facility is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of the women in our care, our employees, and the Live Oak community. We appreciate the comments made by the members of the Grand Jury who participated in both the initial tour and the follow up discussion. We remain dedicated to providing quality care and service to the inmates in our charge.

We will forward a copy of the Grand Jury's Report along with this response to the CDCR so they are aware of the Grand Jury's findings.

We appreciate the time and effort of the entire Grand Jury for their dedication and duty to Sutter County. If my staff or I can be of further assistance or service, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 695-1800.

Sincerely,

Paula Ford
Facility Director

Cc: George Killinger, Vice President-Secure Division, Cornell Companies, Inc.
    Dave Bollinger, CCFA, Programs Administrator –CDCR
    John Herrera, CCFA, Facility Captain – CDCR