



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **State Signs Contract with New Prison Health Care Provider**

ST. PAUL – Today, the State of Minnesota signed a new contract with a health care provider that could deliver significant savings to taxpayers while improving the quality of care for offenders incarcerated in the state’s prison system.

The new contract with Centurion Managed Care, effective Jan. 1, 2014, will cost the state \$67.5 million through 2016. It replaces a contract with Corizon Health, which has provided the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) with physicians, pharmaceutical services and medical specialists for the past 15 years.

“Corizon has provided excellent service to the state,” said DOC Commissioner Tom Roy. “Corizon helped us implement the same type of managed care reforms that almost every other Minnesotan has in their own health insurance plans.”

Roy says the Centurion proposal built on the work that had been done with Corizon and offered to take the state to the next level. “I was impressed by the amount of research Centurion did on the needs and the challenges we face,” he said. “The proposal described new and innovative approaches to preventative health care, mental health care and providing services to older offenders.”

Centurion has a strong history of delivering mental health services to offenders, and Roy says that promises to increase the quality of care. Approximately 25 percent of males and 65 percent of females in Minnesota’s prisons utilize ongoing mental health services. The complex nature of these offender populations requires careful collaboration between DOC behavioral health staff and contract providers of psychiatric services.

The DOC expects to see savings in the pharmaceuticals provided to offenders. Centurion subcontracts with Diamond Pharmacy, which utilizes a sophisticated computerized dispensing system. “This will streamline the process of dispensing medications and allow nursing staff to focus on patient care,” said Roy.

Centurion’s proposal also articulates a commitment to continuous quality improvement of health care services.

“The new contract designates a special continuous quality and special projects nurse who will work with the DOC medical staff,” Roy said. “The DOC has a culture of continuous improvement in every area, and we are anxious to work with a partner who has made the same commitment to excellence.”

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