



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Civil Rights Division**

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*Assistant Attorney General  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - RFK  
Washington, DC 20530*

August 6, 2007

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell  
Governor of Connecticut  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: CRIPA Investigation of the Connecticut Valley Hospital,  
Middletown, Connecticut

Dear Governor Rell:

I am writing to report the findings of the Civil Rights Division's investigation of conditions and practices at the Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) in Middletown, Connecticut. On December 19, 2005, we notified you that we were initiating an investigation of conditions and practices at CVH, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), 42 U.S.C. § 1997. CRIPA gives the Department of Justice authority to seek a remedy for a pattern and practice of conduct that violates the constitutional or federal statutory rights of patients with mental illness who are treated in public institutions.

As part of our investigation, on May 30 through June 2, 2006, we conducted an on-site review of care and treatment at CVH with expert consultants in the areas of psychiatry, psychology, and suicide prevention. In conducting our on-site investigation, we interviewed administrators, staff, and patients, and examined the physical living conditions at the facility. Before, during, and after our visit, we reviewed a wide variety of documents, including policies and procedures, patients' medical records, and other documents relating to the care and treatment of dozens of CVH patients. At the end of the tour, consistent with our pledge of transparency and to provide technical assistance regarding our investigatory findings, we provided an exit interview to convey our preliminary findings to counsel and facility and State officials.

















































































































