



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*Special Litigation Section - PHB
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530*

May 2, 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Patton State Hospital, Patton, California

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to report the findings of the Civil Rights Division's investigation of conditions and practices at Patton State Hospital ("Patton"), in Patton, California. On April 9, 2004, we notified you that we were investigating conditions at Patton pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act ("CRIPA"), 42 U.S.C. § 1997. CRIPA gives the Department of Justice authority to seek remedies for any pattern and practice of conduct that violates the constitutional or federal statutory rights of persons with mental illness who are served in public institutions.

In December 2005,¹ we conducted an on-site inspection of Patton. We reviewed a wide variety of relevant State and facility documents, including policies, procedures, and medical and other records relating to the care and treatment of patients. During our visit, we also interviewed Patton administrators, professionals, and staff, and talked to and observed patients in their living units, at activity areas, and during treatment meetings. We were assisted in this exercise by expert consultants in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, medical care, and quality assurance and risk management. In keeping with our pledge of transparency and to provide technical assistance

¹ The tour was delayed until the parties resolved the manner in which they would establish the applicability at Patton of any remedial measures developed in connection with the Department's separate investigation of Metropolitan State Hospital.

