



July 31, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

In April 2006 the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority (BRRJA) entered into an agreement with Dr. Kaveh Ofogh to provide mental health evaluation and treatment services to the inmates at the five facilities operated by the Authority. The BRRJA has an average daily population in excess of 1,000 inmates.

Dr. Ofogh established a telemedicine system between each of the BRRJA's five facilities and consulting psychiatrists. This innovative approach to mental health services has significantly reduced the cost of emergency medical services and psychotropic medications. Our latest pharmacy figures show a 34% reduction in the cost of psychotropic medications after one year. Telemedicine has also reduced the BRRJA's transportation costs and eliminated the security risks of having to transport inmates for these services.

In addition, he hired a mental health professional to provide on-site consultation services, which has dramatically reduced the number of screening requests to our Community Service Boards. The use of an on-site mental health professional, along with teleconferencing, has enabled the BRRJA to provide mental health services to a greater number of prisoners at a lower cost. Statistics across the Commonwealth show an ever-increasing number of individuals housed in local jails in need of psychiatric services.

The BRRJA has seen a reduction in the number of grievances and complaints filed by inmates requesting mental health services. We have also noticed a reduction in the number of confrontations between inmates and Jail Officers.

In summary, we have been very pleased with Dr. Ofogh and his staff's performance. He has delivered the services and savings indicated in his proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher R. Webb".

Christopher R. Webb
Administrator

CRW/mb