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**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RESPONSE TO DOJ REPORT ON
EDNA MAHAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR WOMEN**

Trenton, N.J. – April 13, 2020 – On April 26, 2018, the Department of Justice (DOJ) launched an investigation of Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women that focused on events that occurred under a previous administration. Since then, Marcus O. Hicks, Esq., was appointed to oversee the Department, and as part of his first order of business, his administration addressed a number of the recommendations cited in the DOJ report, among them:

- The Safety and Accountability for Edna Task Force was created and charged with examining ways to improve conditions and provide a safer facility. This group implemented gender restricted posts and identified the need for increased camera surveillance across our facilities, which have since been implemented.
- An increased focus was placed on educating staff and inmates on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and ways to report. Inmates can report abuse via the PREA-liaison, staff members, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Special Investigations Division, through a third party (such as a family member), a dedicated hotline or via JPay (an inmate self-help kiosk system).
- The Department reestablished a third-party all female board of Trustees who serve as the voice of the women at EMCFW and advise us on our journey to continuous excellence.
- An Early Warning System was designed to identify patterns of problematic behavior that can jeopardize offender safety.
- Building off the National Institute of Corrections supervisory training on gender responsiveness and trauma-informed practices, a modified module was designed and presented to all staff and members of other units that provide services at Edna Mahan.

The Department of Corrections remains committed to ensuring the safety of all those in its care, and in service of that goal continues to regularly monitor and evaluate its operations, programs and services.

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