



PRESS RELEASE
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**Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases
Addendum to Report Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic in Prisons**

On March 20, 2020 the Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a [report](#) following a series of panel discussions on prison conditions facing individuals with mental health concerns in the state. The report examines the extent to which such individuals are afforded equal access to medical services, such as adequate mental health and psychiatric care, and reasonable protections from injury or the risk of injury while incarcerated.

On July 27, 2020 the Committee released an addendum to this report, addressing the impact of the present COVID-19 pandemic on various areas of concern raised in the initial report. In this addendum the Committee addresses the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the mental health and wellbeing of incarcerated individuals, particularly given previous concerns regarding resource limitations. The addendum concludes, "...the necessity for resources for the COVID-19 response, cannot be 'generated' by siphoning any additional resources away from the already challenged effort to shore up mental health care in the NDCS system."

Committee Chair Dr. Jonathan Benjamin Alvarado said, "The devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic has served to highlight the importance of these considerations given the disproportionate impact to the incarcerated in Nebraska, and deepens the call for needed attention to, and the care and wellbeing of this vulnerable population."

The full addendum is available in the newly released report, [here](#).

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).