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KENNY C. GUINN

## Office of the Governor

January 10, 2003

Ralph F. Boyd, Jr. Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20033

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Thank you for providing me with the findings of the investigation of the Nevada Youth Training Center (NYTC) in Elko, Nevada, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). We are appreciative for the time and effort put into this investigation.

I appreciate the many positive comments contained in the report. Both the representatives from the Department of Justice and the consultants assisting in the investigation recognized that NYTC has strong vocational, educational, and athletic programs that result in positive growth experiences for the youth placed there. They also identified the health and counseling programs as high quality services.

The report also noted that management and state executive staff are committed to improving the program to assure it is among the best in the country for youth. Due to the concerns raised in the exit interview, Edward Cotton, Administrator for the Division of Child and Family Services, privately interviewed several youth at NYTC shortly after your visit. Staff have thoroughly reviewed the problems and the recommendations noted in this report, as well as the information gathered by Mr. Cotton, and believe that most of the issues have already been resolved. Others require more time, but we have made progress on all of them.

The staffing levels were a major cause of concern to the investigators, impacting several problem areas. Therefore, I have included substantial staffing increases at NYTC in my budget proposal for FY04. I will push for legislative support for these positions so that we can move forward with the measures identified in this report.

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Enclosed with this letter is a detailed response to each of the six areas of recommendations in the CRIPA report and a high-level list of the 12 steps we are committed to take in the coming years to address the concerns identified at NYTC. I am committed to assuring that Nevada operates high-quality juvenile correctional facilities that are focused on the safety, growth, and development of the youth.

If you have additional comments, please contact Edward Cotton, Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services, 711 E. Fifth Street, Carson City, Nevada, 89701. His telephone number is 775/684-4401.

Sincerely,

ENNY C. GUINN

Governor

## MW/KGM/lf

cc: Michael Willden, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Ed Cotton, Administrator, DCFS
Willie Smith, Deputy Administrator, DCFS
Dale Warmath Surveyed and NEGO PM

Dale Warmuth, Superintendent, NYTC, Elko Karen Dickerson, Deputy Attorney General