



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

May 21, 2020

Joanna Carns  
Office of Corrections Ombuds  
PO Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Ms. Carns:

The Washington Department of Corrections appreciates the opportunity to respond to the 'OCO Monitoring Visit to Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women' report completed by the Office of Corrections Ombuds (OCO).

The Department of Corrections takes very seriously the health and safety of the incarcerated population and staff in the Washington state correctional facilities. The agency appreciates the opportunity to have your staff tour the Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women and evaluate the facility's implementation of the protocols and procedures, especially cleaning and communication tools, put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The information provided by the OCO was useful to ensure the Department of Corrections is doing everything it can to ensure an incarcerated individuals health and safety while incarcerated, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also appreciate your team's understanding of the unique implementation across facilities and the addition of policies and procedures being put in place to protect our populations. The facility will continue to consider ways to enhance physical distancing between the women incarcerated at the facility as well ways to proactively implement any further precautionary measures as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Moving forward, Washington Department of Corrections will continue to collaborate with the Office of the Corrections Ombuds on any future quality assurance visits.

Sincerely,

Steve Sinclair, Secretary  
Washington Department of Corrections