

California Correctional Health Care Services

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Federal receiver's response to LAO report on inmate health care

SACRAMENTO, Calif - "I'd like to thank the LAO for their work on this report, which notes a number of recommendations that we have already undertaken, including expanding telemedicine and achieving even more savings through our utilization management system. Over the past three years, since I took over the receivership, we have made tremendous strides in implementing major initiatives that have resulted in permanent reductions in medical expenses by more than \$500 million, such as those noted in the report. We are now focused on further refining our processes and systems to ensure every savings and efficiency is maximized. It is important for taxpayers to know that .80 (cents) of every \$1 spent is on direct patient care. Today, largely through our cost reduction initiatives, the average annual medical cost per inmate is closer to \$10k. We look for every opportunity to save taxpayer dollars, while meeting federal court mandates to improve access to and the quality of correctional medical care."

J. Clark Kelso, Receiver

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