

The Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC) wishes to convey our profound sympathy to the family and friends of Ashley Ellis for the tragic death of their loved one.

The DOC appreciates DRVT's commendation of the Vermont correctional officers who were on duty at the Northwest State Correctional Facility when the tragedy involving Ms. Ellis occurred for properly performing their duties under very difficult circumstances. The DOC also acknowledges DRVT's report for what it recognizes by omission – that no State employee violated any applicable law, professional standard, duty, or State policy, procedure, or practice in connection with Ms. Ellis's incarceration and treatment.

The DOC no longer contracts with Prison Health Services to provide medical care to Vermont inmates. Nonetheless, we welcome and are considering the conclusions and recommendation offered in DRVT's report to inform our continual efforts to evaluate and improve the quality and efficacy of medical care provided to thousands of Vermont inmates every year.