

**CORRECTIONAL MEDICAL AUTHORITY (CMA)**  
**MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY**  
**OF**  
**LOWELL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**  
**(Men's Unit)**

in  
**Lowell, Florida**  
**October 12 - 14, 1999**

INSTITUTIONAL STATISTICS PROVIDED CMA ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1999				
Population	Custody	Type	Maximum Capacity	Current Occupied Beds
Adult	Close	Male	1,206	1,133

"S" GRADES				
I	II	III	IV	Impaired
1,057	58	0	0	0

## **Mental Health Executive Summary**

All conclusions were based on a sample review of medical records; interviews with inmates, health care providers and security staff; and a physical inspection of the institution. This was the third CMA mental health survey of Lowell Correctional Institution Men's Unit (LOWCI-M), formerly Marion Correctional Institution.

The institution, constructed in 1976, is a minimum to close custody facility housing psychological grade S1 and S2 male offenders. Of the 1,133 inmates housed at the main institution at the time of the survey, 58 were S2s. Staff consisted of one part-time senior psychologist and two psychological specialists. The senior psychologist devoted half of her work hours to Lowell's Women's Unit which was experiencing staffing shortages.

Minimal group treatment was provided at LOWCI-M. Two required groups were offered, but a successful sex offender relapse group had been discontinued. This was attributed directly to staffing shortages. Another concern identified was the safety of staff while providing services. Mental health staff are housed along a hallway which separates them from other personnel. This design, coupled with the staffing shortages could leave an individual staff person alone in the area. In addition, there is not a security post in the area where services are actually provided.

All in all, inmates interviewed spoke very positively about the mental health services provided at LOWCI-M. This was supported in the documentation of systems as well as records reviewed. Inmates also indicated that some services were no longer provided due to staff shortages.

## **Mental Health Strengths**

1. All inmates interviewed reported knowing how to access mental health services.
2. Inmates spoke positively about the mental health services provided.

## **Mental Health Citations - Level I**

There were no Level I citations noted during this survey.

## **Mental Health Citations - Level II**

### **Access**

1. There was minimal group therapy offered. At least one therapeutic group had been discontinued because of staffing shortages. The full complement of therapeutic groups required was not provided.

### **Administrative**

2. The senior psychologist at LOWCI-M was unable to provide full-time services to the mental health program because of her extensive responsibilities at the women's unit.

## **Mental Health Additional Issues Noted**

3. The mental health staff were not safe in their current work environment which did not include a security posting, panic button or some other means of alerting other staff that assistance was needed.
4. Required documentation was lacking for an inmate housed in the isolation room on suicide observation status.
5. It was noted by surveyors that it could take up to five days for an inmate's request to reach mental health.
6. Orientation materials did not address informed consent.