



PRESS RELEASE

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**Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: *Prisons and Mental Health Services***

On Thursday, June 13, in Lincoln, the Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public meeting to hear testimony regarding civil rights concerns facing incarcerated individuals with mental health conditions.

Among potential related concerns, the Committee will examine (a) incarcerated individuals' access to mental health diagnosis and treatment services; (b) the extent to which denial or insufficient access to mental health services may exacerbate the mental health conditions of inmates, causing additional injury/harm; (c) the use of solitary confinement to inappropriately segregate or otherwise isolate individuals with mental health concerns; and (d) the extent to which incarcerated individuals with mental health concerns have equal access to other rehabilitative/supportive programs and services.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, June 13, 2019, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm CDT, at the Marriot Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period scheduled to begin at 3:00 pm. The Committee will accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by July 15, 2019. To request individual accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend, please contact the Commission's Regional Programs Unit at 312-353-8311, at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Committee Chair Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado said, "This presents us with a unique opportunity to explore exactly where we are in Nebraska, as it relates to the provision of mental health services in the state correctional system, and perhaps, consider a way forward that enables this state to fully meet and embrace the centrality of civil rights for the incarcerated."

The Nebraska Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).