



**STATE OF INDIANA
Department of Correction**

Indiana Government Center—South

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

302 W. Washington Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2738
Phone: (317) 232-5711 • Fax: (317) 232-6798 • Website: www.in.gov/idoc/

Robert E. Carter Jr.
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Indiana Department of Correction Hires Dr. William Van Ness as Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Van Ness to provide oversight of health services for state's approximately 25,000 incarcerated offenders

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Robert E. Carter today announced the hiring of Dr. William Van Ness as its Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

Prior to accepting this position, Dr. Van Ness served as Commissioner of the Indiana State Department of Health from January 2013 until October 2014. From October 2013 until accepting the CMO role, Dr. Van Ness served as a consultant to Meditech, an electronic records company located in Boston and Lean Care Solutions, a company focused on predicting hospital readmissions. Additional previous experience includes leading Community Hospital of Anderson and Madison County.

"Hiring Dr. Van Ness represents a significant realignment in our approach to delivering comprehensive medical care to Indiana's incarcerated population," said Commissioner Carter. "Dr. Van Ness will spearhead the IDOC's intensified efforts to attack the drug epidemic in its facilities. In this role, the IDOC anticipates the CMO will implement a plan for medication-assisted addiction treatment and build an integrated care model for addiction recovery, mental health and medical services."

Dr. Van Ness holds a Bachelor's Degree from Butler University and earned his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. He has received numerous awards including 2002 laureate of the *Madison County Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement*, the *2012 Distinguished Service Award* from the Indiana Hospital Association and in 2013 a *Sagamore of the Wabash* from then Governor Mike Pence.

Approximately 80 percent of the IDOC's prison population acknowledges substance abuse has been or continues to be an issue for them, according to IDOC officials. Nearly 18,000 offenders are released annually into Indiana's communities and labor force.

Dr. Van Ness assumed his new role and responsibilities today. A headshot is attached.

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Media Contact:

Doug Garrison, Indiana Department of Correction
302 W. Washington St. Room E-334
Indianapolis, In 46204-2738
dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov
Office 317-232-5780