EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADULT DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT CENTER

We found that the financial transactions included in our testing were related to the center’s programs and were recorded properly in the accounting systems. However, wages paid to residents at the Special Treatment Unit were not reasonable. In making these determinations, we noted opportunities for cost savings and certain compliance issues meriting management’s attention. We also made an observation that the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center has one of the most expensive per inmate cost in the New Jersey state prison system and that inmates are not removed from the center in accordance with the Sex Offender Act.

AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center is responsible for the security of the Special Treatment Unit (STU) which housed 463 civilly committed sex offenders (residents). The STU residents are provided all necessities including medical care and are housed free of charge. The per-resident cost to the state was $59,700 during fiscal year 2013. STU residents are offered paid institutional work at the state minimum wage rate. During calendar year 2013, 478 STU residents received nearly $2 million in wages. Annual savings of $1.9 million could be achieved if residents were compensated based on the pay rate established for inmates.

- The Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center (ADTC) tolerates liberal use of sick time. The lax enforcement of the policy regarding sick time usage does not deter the casual use and abuse of sick leave. On average, the 370 correctional officers use 14.7 sick days per year. We determined that if each correction officer reduced paid sick leave by only one day, it would save ADTC $75,000 annually in overtime costs.

- As of August 2014, there were 17 inmates sentenced to ADTC that had been refusing treatment and statutorily should have been transferred out to another state prison. The annual per inmate cost of ADTC exceeds other state prisons by over $20,000.

AUDITEE RESPONSE

The Department of Corrections generally concurs with our findings and recommendations. The Department of Human Services is reviewing the issue of compensating the STU residents at the minimum wage rate.

For the complete audit report, click here.