JENNIFER A. CARTER Inspector General



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Patrick J. O'Donnell Clerk of the Legislature State Capitol 1445 K Street Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

Yesterday, the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare (OIG) filed its annual report on Juvenile Room Confinement data as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §83-4,134.01. Unfortunately, our office learned this afternoon that the report contained an error.

The report stated that the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) had not filed quarterly room confinement reports with the Legislature. This is not correct. The NDCS's reports were filed and appear on the Legislature's website. Unfortunately, the NDCS's reports did not appear in the search results when the OIG conducted its usual search of juvenile room confinement reports on the Legislature's website. It is the OIG's standard to ensure that information in our reports is accurate and well supported and we regret this error. We have assured staff at NDCS that we would file this correction as soon as possible.

One note of clarification: as stated in the juvenile room confinement reports, the OIG is not able to analyze properly the room confinement data from the reports that are filed on the Legislature's website. As a result, facilities also share the data with the OIG directly in a format that allows our office to sort and analyze the data. NDCS, however, did not share its data with the OIG directly this year. As a result, the 2022 Juvenile Room Confinement report does not include NDCS data in its analysis.

NDCS did share that data with us this afternoon. A preliminary review of that data indicates that the number of incidents of juvenile room confinement at NDCS facilities increased slightly from

last fiscal year but the overall number of hours of confinement were lower. This is consistent with the OIG's overall findings in its report regarding juvenile room confinement at Nebraska facilities this year.

Once again, we regret this error and respectfully submit this addendum to correct the 2022 Juvenile Room Confinement report.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carter Inspector General