

SCDC Health Professionals Receive Certifications and Key Role in NCCHC

Three health care professionals employed by the South Carolina Department of Corrections are now actively involved with the prestigious National Commission on Correctional Health Care. Lefford Fate, Deputy Director of Health Services, and Tonia Wood, BSN RN Supervisor of the Self Injurious Behavior (SIB) Unit at Kirkland R&E, were recently certified by the NCCHC. Dr. Sam Soltis, Assistant Deputy Director of Health Services, was elected as one of the 38 members of the national organization's Board of Directors.

The NCCHC is widely recognized for its leadership in setting standards for health services in correctional facilities. Established by the health, legal and corrections professions, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care's *Standards* present recommendations for the management of a correctional health services system. Written in separate volumes for prisons, jails and juvenile confinement facilities, plus a manual for mental health services, the *Standards* cover the area of care and treatment, health records, administration, personnel and medical-legal issues. These essential resources have helped correctional and detention facilities improve the health of their inmates and the communities to which they return, increase the efficiency of health services delivery, and strengthen organizational effectiveness.

"Participants in the NCCHC's Certified Correctional Health Professional program have been recognized for mastering the national standards and the special knowledge and skills expected of leaders in this complex and ever-changing field," said Dr. Soltis. "Having staff complete the certification requirements of NCCHC will help us toward our goal of becoming the number one correctional health care organization in the country by 2020," added Deputy Director Fate.



(L-R, Tonia Wood, Lefford Fate and Dr. Sam Soltis)