

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
M00A01**

Response to Recommended Actions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Response: DHMH concurs with the DLS recommendation.

- 2. Residential Facility Standards:** The budget committees remain concerned about the fact that the percentage of residential and program buildings meeting licensing standards, current building codes, and patient/client needs has remained below 50% for several years. The committees request that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) in conjunction with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submit a report by November 1, 2015, that provides for a plan on how the State will bring all of these buildings up to current standards in the next five years.

Response: DHMH does not concur with the DLS recommendation.

The primary reason the percentage of buildings meeting standards is low is because the buildings at Spring Grove are old and the layout of the campus is not conducive to best practices in hospital psychiatric treatment. An engineering analysis, done in 2001, found many of the buildings have poor to fair infrastructures pointing to the need to renovate or replace the buildings at some point in the future. The hospital is accredited, however, for capital planning purposes, the buildings require renovations and the layout of the campus consolidated. If the deficiencies at Spring Grove were to be addressed the percentage meeting standards would jump to 87%. Projects are underway at remaining facilities or have had funding requested for FY 2016 to address deficiencies. Behavioral Health Administration is assessing options for Spring Grove. In the past constructing a new hospital has been discussed but this would be a costly endeavor.