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New Concerns at Beatrice Facility

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Despite improvements, a state center for developmentally disabled Nebraskans is again facing complaints that its employees are overworked.

A report to state legislators obtained by The Associated Press shows employee overtime at the Beatrice State Developmental Center soared in the last three months of 2014. Workers logged 19,220 hours of overtime, a 39 percent increase over the same period the previous year.

The increase has prompted some workers to complain and raised new concerns about turnover among the staff, which oversees residents with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Advocates for the center's residents stress that conditions have vastly improved since 2009, when one resident died due to neglect.

The Department of Health and Human Services says it's reviewing why overtime increased and is working hard to recruit and keep quality workers.

Associated Press