



Greg Gianforte, Governor | Brian M. Gootkin, Director

January 31, 2023

Members of the Long-Range Planning and Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice Joint Subcommittees,

The Montana Department of Corrections respectfully submits the following information in response to questions posed by members of the joint committees at their Jan. 31, 2023 hearing.

Badlands Recovery Center - Contract language related to bed space and usage

The DOC's contract with Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services, Inc. (CCCS) related to bed space and usage at Badlands Recover Center says: "...lease space in Glendive, Montana, for residential substance use disorder treatment." Also, "Lessee shall make reasonable and diligent efforts to maintain a ratio of clients that are at least 75% Medicaid clients. Should the Lessee be unable to maintain a ratio of 75% Medicaid clients after reasonable diligent efforts, Lessee may provide service to non-Medicaid clients. However, the next space that becomes available should be given first preference to Medicaid clients. Lessee shall give priority to the justice-involved population (individuals having had interactions with the criminal justice system as a defendant)."

The Glendive property owned by the department is located in a residential area and, pursuant to administrative rules as well as security considerations, may not house a prison population. Additionally, any community corrections facility located there could not accept sexual or violent offenders.

Dashboard indicating which offenders are waiting to be moved to prerelease or treatment centers, which centers, and how long the offenders have been waiting?

The DOC does not have a dashboard that illustrates this information at this time. That said, the department hopes to create a placement group which would help coordinate placement and movement of individuals to and from prerelease and treatment centers. This group would compile statistics related to its work that would likely reflect the data in this request.

Can you provide insight into how the department is approaching the upcoming PRC RFP process?

The DOC intends to let a Request for Information (RFI) later this calendar year. It will seek to better understand which contract providers might be interested in doing this work, at what locations, for what types of offenders, and number of offenders. The DOC will also request information regarding how the providers will serve offenders using traditional, expanded, and/or specialized services. This RFI will inform potential providers of the development of an RFP to solicit new proposals for continuing to operate the community corrections network for DOC early next year.

What is the average cost per educational course per student?

The DOC doesn't operate its educational offerings on a cost per hour tuition model. Instead, the department is allocated about \$2 million/year from the general fund to provide educational services. That funding is used to hire and pay instructors to teach curriculum and deliver that curriculum to as many offenders as possible. Instruction is provided to offenders based on classification and housing situations; behavior and educational background; and availability and requirement in relation to the other two considerations.

When was the perimeter fence at MSP constructed?

1982

What is the standard for the size of an offender's living quarters (square feet)?

ACA standards require 25 square feet of unencumbered space per occupant. If the offender is placed in a confinement cell, the standard requires 80 square feet of which 35 must be unencumbered.

Existing cell space on the Low Side at MSP does not allow for the recommended amount of unencumbered space per occupant. However, should the DOC receive funding to rebuild the Low Side housing, the department intends to meet, if not exceed, the ACA standard.

Please let us know if you have any questions related to these responses.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian M. Gootkin, Director