



Greg Gianforte, Governor | Brian M. Gootkin, Director

Nexus Treatment Center

Monday, July 3, 2023, at 11am

Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, Lewistown MT

General purpose: Seek input on Nexus Treatment Center adding 4 additional beds to increase the total number of beds under contract with DOC from 82 to 86. No physical expansion is needed as there is already existing unused bedspace.

Public comments were received/offered by three members of the public.

1. I'm concerned about the following issues. 1. Where will the additional offenders be housed within the facility? My recollection is Nexus was designed to house a set number of people with no additional space for growth. 2. Are you adding to the number of offenders without expanding staffing? 3. If staffing will not be expanded, can you explain why this isn't an option? 4. In the last 5 years, what is the total number of successful escapes from Nexus? The total number of attempted escapes breaching the interior fence? 5. Will the screening criteria be relaxed or changed to increase access to Nexus? I think these are questions that need to be answered. Overcrowding throughout Montana's correction system is an ongoing issue and Nexus should not be added to the list of overcrowded facilities. I think Nexus' staff does a good job and don't want it or our community impacted by the issues overcrowding could and would bring.
 - a. *DOC response: CCCS, the Nexus facility operator, has assured us that they have 4 additional bed spaces within the current facility design for which DOC can contract, without increasing program or staffing levels or jeopardizing operational fidelity. Screening criteria and other related protocols already in place will not change.*
2. If Montana Code Annotated (MCA) does not require a public meeting for under the 25% increase? Why is a public meeting being held without needing to be held? Does this give the opportunity to further increase the beds without hosting a second public meeting?
 - a. *DOC response: The Department is following all applicable requirements with respect to increasing its contract capacity with Nexus. There is no intention to expand beyond what was stated in the public notice.*
3. How will this increase benefit or work within the community? How will the taxpayers of the community see a gain from this? How will it cost the community?
 - a. *DOC response: It should not have, nor should the community see any change (positive, negative, or otherwise) of any type in benefit or work opportunities, taxpayers gains or losses, or costs. This will add 4 additional resident beds within the existing facility to be served by the existing programs and staff.*