

Agency Oversight: Montana Developmental Center Closure *Client Status as of June 6, 2017*

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for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
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Background

The 2015 Legislature passed Senate Bill 411, requiring the Department of Public Health and Human Services to develop and put into place a plan to close the Montana Developmental Center (MDC) by June 30, 2017. As part of that effort, the department was supposed to transition most of the residents out of the facility and into community services by Dec. 31, 2016.

When SB 411 was passed in 2015, 52 individuals were at MDC. Twenty-five clients remained at the facility at the end of 2016, just six months before it was to close.

This briefing paper discusses MDC-related activity to date in 2017.

The 2017 Legislature: HB 387

The 2017 Legislature extended the closure date for a portion of the MDC campus for 2 years through passage of House Bill 387. That bill also allows a 12-bed locked building to remain open permanently.

The 12-bed facility, currently known as the Assessment and Stabilization Unit (ASU), will be used as an "Intensive Behavior Center" for individuals who are committed by a court at the request of DPHHS because of "continuous or repeated behaviors that pose an imminent risk of serious harm to self or others." Commitments and recommitments are limited to 90 days.

Under HB 387, all cottages on the campus must be closed by June 30, 2019. DPHHS may continue to use two cottages for client housing through June 30, 2018, and one cottage through June 30, 2019.

Additional Community Placements

Four MDC clients were placed in community services between Dec. 10, 2016, and June 6, 2017. Two of the clients were placed in group homes operated by Benchmark in Clancy and Helena. Another was placed in a group home operated by A.W.A.R.E., Inc., in Great Falls, and the fourth was placed at the Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center in Lewistown.

Of the remaining 21 clients:

- 16 had been placed at MDC through civil commitments and five had been sentenced to DPHHS custody after committing crimes;
- seven were now at MDC voluntarily because their civil commitment orders or criminal sentences had expired;
- 13 had been accepted into and were awaiting placement in community services; and
- 8 clients were not yet accepted into community services.

Snapshot of MDC Client Status as of June 6, 2017

The table below summarizes key information about the number of individuals who were at MDC as of June 6, by type of admission.

	Type of Current Commitment		
	Civil	Voluntary	Criminal
Number of Clients	10	7	4
Lowest Length of Stay (Days)	629	939	613
Highest Length of Stay (Days)	6,408	7,226	1,402
Average Length of Stay (Days)	2,540	2,530	991
Lowest Cost Plan	\$182,596	\$182,596	\$185,183
Highest Cost Plan	\$261,452	\$255,455	\$187,341
Average Cost Plan	\$222,805	\$214,791	\$186,597

Individuals who are waiting to be accepted into services are on the so-called "port list." Eight people were still waiting for placement as of June 6. The table below provides more information about those individuals.

	Type of Current Commitment		
	Civil	Voluntary	Criminal
Number of Clients on Port List	4	1	3
Fewest Days on Port List*	498	498	391
Most Days on Port List	567	498	414
Average Days on Port List	515	498	406
Average Cost Plan	\$243,844	\$182,596	\$187,068