

## **SB 411: Montana Developmental Center Closure** ***Client Status as of Mid-December 2015***

Prepared for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee  
Dec. 22, 2015

### 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 is supposed to transition most of the residents out of the facility and into community services by Dec. 31, 2016.

This briefing paper discusses the number and status of MDC clients as of Dec. 18, 2015, as well as recent changes DPHHS has made to the costs of placing clients in the community.

### MDC Population

Since the last report on the MDC census in November:

- no clients were placed in community services and one person was placed at MDC on a criminal commitment, boosting the census from 51 in October to 52 on Dec. 18;
- four more clients have been placed on the list for community services, including two individuals who are at MDC on criminal commitments; and
- DPHHS has increased the amount of money it will pay for community services for most of the individuals waiting for services, with the changes totaling about \$1 million.

The additions to the so-called “port list” brought to 28 the number of individuals who have been approved to return to the community and are awaiting placement. The remaining 24 clients were not considered ready for return to the community. Eight of the 24 have been convicted of crimes. None of the individuals under criminal commitments may be placed in the community unless a court changes their sentences or they become eligible and are approved for parole.

### Changes to the Cost Plans

The “cost plans” — the amount of money available for community services — increased for 22 of the individuals on the port list since October and decreased for two clients. The increases ranged from slightly more than \$1,000 to \$125,000 and averaged out at \$51,525.

The cost plans for two individuals decreased — one by \$17,134 and one by \$52,755.

The changes were based on a review of the proposed community services needed by individuals on the port list and conversations with community providers. DPHHS determined that many of the clients would need more behavioral support services, which are delivered in the client's residence by a person with more skills than a direct support person.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Interview with Rebecca de Camara, Administrator, DPHHS Disability Services Division, Dec. 22, 2015.

Cost plans changed as follows for the individuals who were on the port list on both Oct. 31 and Dec. 18:

- the average cost plan for clients on a civil commitment was \$183,200 in December, or nearly \$42,000 more than the \$141,407 average in October;
- the lowest cost plan for civilly committed clients was \$82,344 in October, and the highest plan was \$308,210, compared with \$152,210 and \$255,455, respectively, in December;
- the average cost plan for clients who were voluntarily at MDC in December was \$210,333, or about \$51,700 higher than the \$158,650 average in October; and
- the lowest cost plan for clients on a voluntary admission was \$117,185 in October, and the highest plan was \$241,495, compared with \$164,892 and \$255,455, respectively, in December.

In addition to the ongoing funding provided by the cost plans, providers who committed before Oct. 1 to taking MDC clients will receive a one-time payment of \$40,000 per client. In exchange, the providers have agreed to provide services for at least 12 months.

Snapshot of MDC Client Status as of Dec. 18

The table below summarizes key information about the number of individuals who were at MDC as of Dec. 18, by type of admission.

	Type of Admission		
	Civil	Voluntary	Criminal
Number of Clients	37	5	10
Port List	22	4	2
Lowest Length of Stay (Days)	89	485	74
Highest Length of Stay (Days)	5,869	8,571	2,612
Average Length of Stay (Days)	1,475	4,336	1,196
Fewest Days on Port List	28	755	35
Most Days on Port List	2,302	1,659	35
Average Days on Port List	672	1,340	35
Lowest Cost Plan	\$152,210	\$164,892	\$159,223
Highest Cost Plan	\$255,455	\$255,455	\$185,183
Average Cost Plan	\$183,208	\$210,333	\$172,203