

Agency Oversight: Montana Developmental Center Closure ***Client Status as of Aug. 23, 2017***

Prepared by Sue O'Connell, Research Analyst
for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
Aug. 24, 2017

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 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. 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 allowed a 12-bed locked building to remain open permanently as an Intensive Behavior Center (IBC).

The IBC will serve 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.

This briefing paper discusses the number and status of MDC clients as of Aug. 23, 2017.

MDC Population

One MDC client was placed in community services between June 6 and Aug. 23, with Flathead Industries in Kalispell. In addition, two individuals were committed from communities to the IBC, while DPHHS sought court commitment of 10 MDC residents to the IBC.

Of the 22 individuals at the Boulder campus:

- 12 were at the IBC, and 10 were living in MDC cottages;
- 18 were placed at MDC through civil commitments, and six of the 18 were at MDC voluntarily because their civil commitment orders had expired;
- four were sentenced to DPHHS custody after committing crimes;
- 12 had been accepted into and were awaiting placement in community services; and
- eight clients were not yet accepted into community services. The same eight clients were waiting for placement at the time of the last report in June.

The table on the back of this document summarizes key information about the number of individuals who were at MDC as of Aug. 23, by type of admission.

Snapshot of MDC Client Status as of Aug. 23, 2017

	Type of Current Commitment		
	Civil	Voluntary	Criminal
Number of Clients	12	6	4
Lowest Length of Stay (Days)	14	1,013	687
Highest Length of Stay (Days)	6,482	7,300	1,476
Average Length of Stay (Days)	2,183	2,651	1,065
Lowest Cost Plan	\$182,596	\$182,596	\$185,183
Highest Cost Plan	\$261,452	\$255,455	\$187,341
Average Cost Plan	\$232,506	\$219,366	\$186,597

Eight people were waiting for community placement as of Aug. 23. 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*	567	572	488
Most Days on Port List	572	572	641
Average Days on Port List	571	572	539
Average Cost Plan	\$243,844	\$182,596	\$187,068