

JUNE 2018

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
Sue O'Connell, Legislative Research Analyst

MDC CLOSURE: CLIENT STATUS AS OF JUNE 5, 2018

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 passed House Bill 387 to extend the closure date for a portion of the MDC campus for 2 years. The bill also allowed a 12-bed locked building to remain open permanently as an Intensive Behavior Center (IBC). The IBC is to 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 June 5, 2018.

MDC Population

The census at MDC dropped from 17 to 13 between April 27 and June 5. Benchmark accepted three clients into services in Helena, and Opportunities Resources, Inc., accepted a client in Missoula.

Of the 13 individuals at the Boulder campus:

- 12 were at the IBC, and one was living in a cottage;
- 11 were placed at MDC through civil commitments, and one of the 11 was still at MDC voluntarily because the person's civil commitment order had expired;
 - two were sentenced to DPHHS custody after committing crimes;
 - three had been accepted into and were awaiting placement in community services;
 - six were referred for but not yet accepted into community services; and
- four were not yet referred for placement in the community because of their current criminal sentence, because they were not considered ready to return to the community, or because placement with a relative was under consideration.

The table below summarizes key information about the number of individuals who were at MDC as of June 5, by type of admission.

Snapshot of MDC Client Status as of June 5, 2018

	Type of Current Commitment		
	Civil	Voluntary	Criminal
Number of Clients	10	1	2
Shortest Length of Stay (Days)	188	7,586	973
Longest Length of Stay (Days)	6,786	7,586	1,358
Average Length of Stay (Days)	2,056	7,586	1,166
Lowest Cost Plan	\$182,596	\$252,498	\$186,931
Highest Cost Plan	\$255,455	\$252,498	\$187,341
Average Cost Plan	\$213,250	\$252,498	\$187,136

Six people were waiting to be accepted by community providers for services outside of MDC as of June 5. The table below provides more information about those individuals.

	Type of Current Commitment		
	Civil	Voluntary	Criminal
Number of Clients on Port List	5	0	1
Fewest Days on Port List	156	--	774
Most Days on Port List	853	--	774
Average Days on Port List	322	--	774
Average Cost Plan	\$202,498	--	\$187,341