

## **SB 411: Montana Developmental Center Closure *Client Status as of August 2015***

Prepared for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee  
August 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 by Dec. 31, 2016, by:

- actively pursuing the timely discharge of MDC residents into community-based services; and
- working with community providers to develop necessary services.

This briefing paper provides information on the current number and status of MDC clients as of early August, as well as information on the number of community providers who have accepted MDC clients in recent years.

### MDC Population

As of Aug. 6, 52 developmentally disabled individuals were receiving treatment at MDC. Twenty-two of the clients had been approved to return to the community and were awaiting placement. Some had been waiting for several years.

The remaining 30 clients were not considered ready for return to the community. Nine of the 30 clients had been convicted of crimes. However, because of their developmental disabilities, they were not sentenced to prison. Instead, they were sentenced to the custody of the director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services for placement in an appropriate developmental disabilities, mental health, or correctional facility.

### The "Port List" and MONA

When an MDC client is ready to return to the community, the person is placed on what is known as the Port List. This list is made available to community providers, who then decide whether they are able to serve the client.

Among other things, the Port List contains information about:

- the client's treatment plans and related meeting notes;
- the client's behavior while at MDC;
- the client's medical needs;

- a biopsychosocial evaluation and psychiatric notes for the past six months; and
- the amount of money that is available to pay for services in the community.

The state uses a system called the Montana Resource Allocation Protocol (MONA) to determine the various services that a developmentally disabled person needs. Those services could range from a group home to subsidized employment, transportation, or other supports. The department uses the MONA results to, among other things, calculate an Individual Cost Plan for each person. The person uses money from the cost plan to purchase the identified services.

Status of MDC Clients

The following table provides summary information about individuals at MDC as of Aug. 6.

	Type of Admission		
	Civil	Voluntary	Criminal
Number of Clients	38	5	9
Port List	17	5	0
Lowest Length of Stay (Days)	125	2,100	273
Highest Length of Stay (Days)	5,735	8,437	2,478
Average Length of Stay(Days)	1,318	4,548	1,186
Fewest Days on Port List	16	260	--
Most Days on Port List	2,176	1,533	--
Average Days on Port List	650	1,023	--
Lowest Cost Plan	\$82,344	\$118,867	--
Highest Cost Plan	\$308,210	\$241,495	--
Average Cost Plan	\$141,638	\$159,879	--

Community Providers and MDC Clients

Fifty-one community providers offer group homes or supported living arrangements for individuals with developmental disabilities. In the past eight years, 24 of the providers have accepted a total of 114 clients from MDC. Four of the 24 providers have accepted 10 or more MDC residents during that time period. Seven have accepted one each. One client has been discharged from MDC to the community since July 1.

During the same time period, 21 of the discharged individuals were re-admitted to MDC, and 59 people who were being served by community providers were admitted to the facility.