

March 2018

Law and Justice Interim Committee
Rachel Weiss

PASSAGES PRERELEASE

Passages is a community corrections facility located in Billings that provides supervision and services to adult female offenders. Passages is operated by Alternatives, Inc., and it includes a prerelease facility, as well as an assessment, sanctions, and revocations unit and an inpatient alcohol and drug treatment unit. The prerelease unit has 76 beds, while the assessment, sanctions, and revocations unit and the inpatient treatment unit both have 50 beds.

The LJIC will be touring the prerelease facility. The Department of Corrections contracts with Passages for several services, including the prerelease beds. Passages also houses federal offenders.

Passages completed its most recent Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit in November 2016. The facility met or exceeded all of the 41 applicable standards, although 5 of those standards required corrective action before compliance was achieved.

Key Facts

- Chief Executive Officer: Dave Armstrong; Chief Operating Officer: Jan Begger
- Mission statement: “to promote public safety and challenge offenders to become responsible productive citizens through firm, fair, consistent supervision, treatment, and education”
- Staff: 87 (includes Alternatives administrative staff and staff for other parts of the facility)
- Capacity: 76 beds (5 designated for mental health clients) + 15 beds for the culinary arts program (or CAP)
- Average daily population: 80 clients
- Feb. 28, 2018, snapshot population: 91 (includes CAP participants)
- DOC per diem: \$77.15 per prerelease bed
- Average length of stay: 6 months
- Average age: 35
 - Demographics: 59% Caucasian; 36% Native American; 2% Hispanic; 2% Asian/multiple/other; 1% African American

Sources

- Passages website, www.altinc.net/passages/ and staff
- 2016 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) report, www.altinc.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Passages-PREA-Final-Report-11-29-16.pdf
- Contract with Adult Community Corrections Division, DOC, www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Contracts/a/Alternatives%20%2810-044-ACCD%29%20FY16.pdf
 - 2017 Probation and Parole Division Rainbow Book, DOC, pgs 29-31, www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/ProbationParole/2017%20Rainbow%20Book.pdf
 - Per diem rates from DOC staff