



September 1, 2024

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
Montana State Legislature

Re: Private Alternative Adolescent Residential and Outdoor Programs
MCA 52-2-803: Duties of Department Report

Reporting Period: July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024

Overview

The following statutorily required report is completed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Licensure Bureau. The following report includes the requirements set forth in MCA 52-2-803, which states:

52-2-803. Duties of department. The department shall:

- (1) exercise licensing authority over all programs under this part;
- (2) adopt rules prescribing the health and safety standards upon which licenses are issued under this part;
- (3) adopt rules setting forth reasonable licensing fees;
- (4) make available to the public information on the name, address, and contact information for each licensee; and
- (5) report to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 on the department's efforts related to this part.

Update

Private Alternative Adolescent Residential Programs (PAARPs) continue to be regulated and licensed by the OIG Community and Residential Licensing Program. These programs receive semiannual inspections, per MCA 52-2-810, and may receive additional inspections if a complaint is made.

Administrative Rules of Montana (ARMs) regarding the health and safety standards for PAARPs were originally adopted in 2019. The 2023 Legislative Session enacted House Bill 218, revising laws related to PAARPs, which required amendments to the PAARP administrative rules. These proposed rule amendments are anticipated to be filed with the Secretary of State in August 2024.

The proposed amendments do not include changes to the licensing fees. The table below shows the current, unchanged annual licensing fees for PAARPs.

Number of Participants	Annual Licensing Fee
1 – 10 participants	\$1,688
11 – 25 participants	\$4,345
26 – 50 participants	\$8,138
51+ participants	\$13,313

The licensing database program that the OIG Licensure Bureau utilizes has the additional feature of an online public portal. This portal reflects, in real time, licensing information for all health care and residential facilities, youth group homes, and PAARPs. The public portal is accessible via the Licensure Bureau’s website, listed below. The portal allows for the public to obtain not only a list of PAARPs, but also provides individual PAARP information and includes past inspection results.

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/Licensure/index>