



Sept. 10, 2024

Members of the Interim Budget Committee Section D,

The Montana Department of Corrections submits the following information in response to requests from the committee's June 20, 2024, meeting. Committee requests that are not referenced in this document will be addressed in the department's presentation on Sept. 18, 2024.

Education

Resources - The committee asked the department to provide a list of resources it needs to adequately provide education to all inmates. The DOC is actively working on this through the EPP process with the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning and as part of its final response to the Legislative Audit Committee in relation to the "Evaluating Education and Training Opportunities in Montana's Prisons" audit delivered in April 2024. This will be available in December.

List of content on inmate tablets – The department continually reviews information provided on tablets to determine what additional content could be added to benefit inmates as they prepare for successful return to Montana communities. See "Edovo Content List" attachment.

Rental Vouchers

The annual report for FY24 containing information regarding rental voucher usage is being prepared and will be available by the end of September. The department will provide that report to the committee at that time. In addition, the department is pleased to announce that this information will be available on a public dashboard on the DOC's website soon.

Individuals released from DOC supervision via Conditional Discharge from Supervision (CDFS)

The number of individuals placed on CDFS for the last five years are as follows:

2019: 586
2020: 463
2021: 384
2022: 410
2023: 371

The percentage of those who entered a released status from CDFS are as follows:

2019: 8%
2020: 11%
2021: 12%
2022: 12%
2023: 13%



Prosecutions on behalf of the DOC by DOJ special prosecutor

According to the DOC's Investigations Bureau, in 2022, the department presented 208 cases with 29 of those declined for prosecution by the special prosecutor. In 2023, the DOC presented 176 cases with 17 cases declined. The DOC does not have specific information regarding why the cases were declined. Please note that the department has cases pending from both of those years that could potentially be declined for prosecution.

Explanation of DOC's Placement Unit

See "DOC Placement Unit" attachment.

Programming offered and waitlist (as of Sept. 1, 2024)

- 158 individuals (5% of the total 2,945) are on the treatment waitlist. Of these;
 - 1/3 are awaiting treatment but DO NOT have a court condition requiring treatment be completed before they are eligible to see the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole.
 - 1/3 have NOT admitted their crime (a prior requirement to participate in SOP II) or simply refused treatment.
 - 1/3 are awaiting completion of treatment before they are parole eligible per court condition.
 - Of these approximately 50 people, 10 are participating in a class.
- Constraints
 - For safety and security purposes, class sizes are limited to 12 participants.
 - Most individuals who are on the waitlist are awaiting SO treatment.
 - SO treatment is the most intensive treatment program.
 - DOC currently employs two SO therapists.
- Priority
 - Treatment classes are filled per a predetermined priority list.
 - Those priorities are:
 1. Parole upon completion of ____ (per BOPP hearing).
 2. Discharge date within one year.
 3. Court ordered before parole eligible.
 4. Anyone who is not 1, 2, or 3, or denied parole.
 5. Approved to complete programming in the community.
- Additional responses:
 - Legally, DOC cannot hold anyone beyond their discharge date, regardless of their treatment programming status.
 - "Parole upon completion" is not gauged against a specific date. It is gauged against whenever the individual completes necessary programming.
 - There are few on the waitlist that are not sex-offense related.



Additional information about DOC Commit Process:

Please see attachment: DOC Commit9.17.24

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Gootkin, Director