

WOMEN'S FACILITY

NORTH
Dakota | Corrections and Rehabilitation
 Be Legendary

Image provided by BWBR

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) proposes to build a public safety facility, located in Mandan, focused on the rehabilitation of criminal justice involved women. This would be a full scope facility that not only provides the secure housing of dangerous individuals, but also provides for an opportunity of recovery and reinvention from the all-too-common pathways into the criminal justice system: unhealthy relationships, chemical dependency, social and economic marginalization, and mental health.

The incarcerated women are grandmothers, mothers, daughters, and sisters. A safe and healthy place that is designed and located to support women and enable healthy family relationships is critical. **A majority of these women are mothers.**

We can make a difference in lives that **addresses generational trauma** - not just a building to incarcerate people.

The female incarcerated population continues to grow. This growth, accompanied by lack of resources, has forced the State's correctional system into a bed-space driven system versus a rehabilitative approach.

The purpose of the facility design is not only to meet the increased growth of the incarcerated women over the past twenty years, but will also meet the diverse needs of those in the legal custody and care of the State. The number of incarcerated women in the state has nearly doubled since 2003 (see chart on right). The State does not have the bed capacity to properly orientate new admissions as the number of new admissions has increased from **129** in 2003 to **286** in 2021.

The State's existing women's facilities were never built specifically for the incarceration of women. Capacities are limited and space is lacking to provide proper programs and services. **It is time to invest in public safety - a solution that is responsive to the needs of the State, the community, and the individuals working and living within corrections.**

One location for the women means that the facility will support all custody levels from minimum to maximum.

Providing a capacity of 260 beds will allow the DOCR to offer flexibility to separate the women into groups, increasing psychological safety and reducing aggression and psychological abuse between residents.

The flexible space will allow residents to have personal space. This will give team members the ability to improve facility safety through dynamic security. In addition, the space will provide residents the opportunity to progress into areas with more freedoms and eventually community integration.

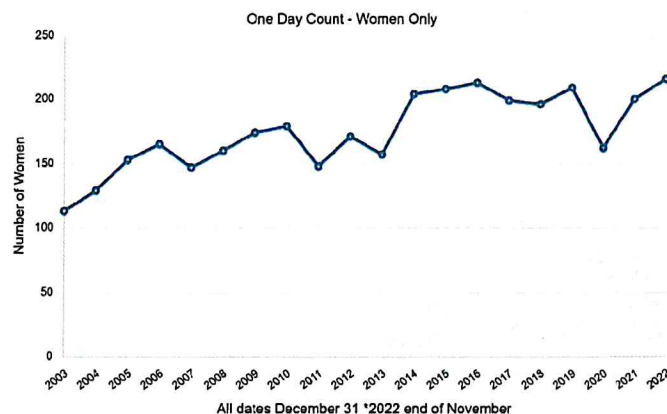
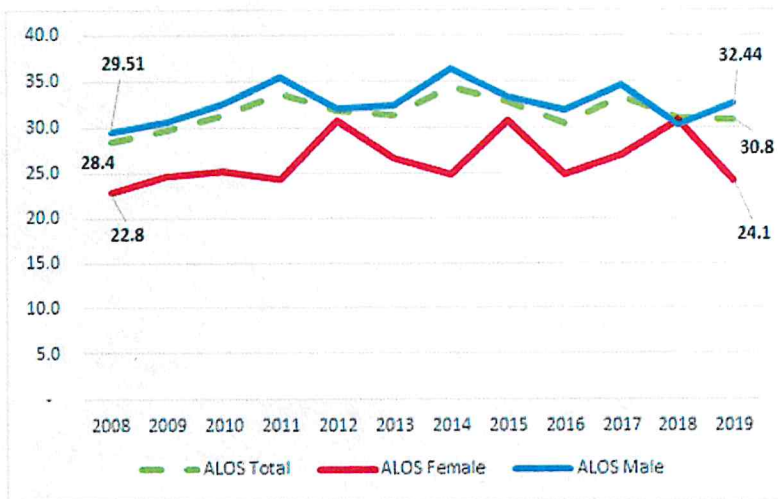


Figure ES.4 DOCR Adult Average Length of Sentence (ALOS) – All Admissions (2008-2019)



Graphic provided by The Moss Group, Inc. and CGL

83% women in our care have a Substance Abuse diagnosis

27% women in our care have a Serious Mental Illness diagnosis

Projected cost of new women's facility: \$161.2M

As of 12/2022

NORMALITY: Prison should only be the restriction of liberty. Life inside of prison should be as close to real life as possible, the more normal the environment is, the less impact and change there will be when residents transition to freedom and re-enter the community. Prison should be a training arena for the mastering of life skills and learning how to be a citizen responsible for his or her own life.

PROGRESSION: As a resident progresses towards release, they should have a gradual increase in freedom of choice, therefore creating a more open environment. A resident may generally transition from higher security to lower security to a more open prison concept with access to the community.

DYNAMIC SECURITY: Security is best achieved through prison staff actively and frequently observing and interacting with residents to gain a better understanding and awareness of them and to constantly assess the risks they represent and their unfulfilled needs. When static security such as cameras, perimeter fencing, alarms and controlled supervision are reliable, then team members can focus on organizational security like completing counts and building relationships with residents to increase safety and security.

TEAM MEMBER WELLNESS AREAS: Mental and physical wellbeing of team members is important so that they are able to provide therapeutic treatment to the residents. Providing safe and welcoming work environments is essential to attracting and retaining valuable team members.

Dakota Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (DWCRC) is a valuable partner to the DOCR. Although the role of DWCRC will change, it is the intent of the DOCR to keep DWCRC relevant to the department's mission and vision.

MISSION: *Transforming lives, influencing change, strengthening community*

VISION: *Healthy and productive neighbors, a safe North Dakota*

"The intention is that prison should facilitate the two mutually dependent contradictions of a sentence: 'Hard and soft,' where the hard represents the sentence and deprivation of freedom, while the soft relates to the concept of rehabilitation."