

COMMUNITY, COUNSELING AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, INC.

Corporate Office
471 East Mercury Street
Butte, Montana 59701
phone: (406) 782-0417
fax: (406) 782-6964
email: corporate@cccscorp.com
website: www.cccscorp.com



Board of Directors
Joe Murphy, President • Don Peoples, Vice President • Jim Graham, Secretary • Pat Fleming, Treasurer
Wayne Harper, Board Member • Kathy Fasso, Board Member • Father Tom Haffey, Board Member
John Kasperick, Board Member • Perry Hawbaker, Board Member • Shawna Yates, Board Member

Corporate Staff
Mike Thatcher, CEO • Brandie Barkell, CFO • Colleen O'Leary, Dir. Human Resources
Jay Grant, Dir. Community Correctional Programs • Melissa Kelly, Dir. Treatment Programs & Services
Levi Queer, Dir. Physical Plant Facilities • Chad Snyder, Dir. Information, Transportation & Vehicle Maintenance
Molina Hamblin, Executive Assistant

Bismarck Transition Center
Kevin Arthaud, Adm.
2001 Lee Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-222-3440 Fax 701-222-3599

Butte Pre-Release Center
Women's Transitional Center
Travis Hettick, Adm.
58-68 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
BPRC 406-782-2316
WTC 406-782-6446 Fax 406-723-1170

Connections Corrections Program
Jeni Nichols, Adm.
111 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
406-782-6626 Fax 406-782-6676

Discovery House
Tina Masters, Adm.
65 Sheep Gulch Road
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-3842 Fax 406-563-2451

Gallatin Re-Entry Facility
Alanna Shetter, Adm.
675 S. 16 Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-994-0300 Fax 406-994-0306

Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility
Mark Boyer, Adm.
P.O. Box 670
Medical Lake, WA 99022
509-565-8113 Fax 509-565-8625

Nexus Program
Rick Barman, Adm.
P.O. Box 1200
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-6660 Fax 406-535-6665

SMART Program
Dan Parish, Adm.
630 W. Mercury Street
Butte, MT 59701
406-299-3450 Fax 406-299-3450

CCCS Toxicology Lab
Ted Bartoletti, Adm.
200 S. Clark Street
Butte, MT 59701
406-299-2775
toxlab@cccscorp.com

START Program
Bob Olson, Adm.
801 MT Hwy 48
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-7002 Fax 406-563-5069

WATCh Program
Melissa Kelly, Adm.
Box G
Warm Springs, MT 59756
406-693-2272 Fax 406-693-2276

Badlands Recovery Center
Michael Nephew, Adm.
700 Little Street
Glendive, MT 59330
406-377-6001 Fax 406-377-6004

January 19, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Armstrong
Governor of North Dakota
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

The Honorable David Hogue
North Dakota Senate Majority Leader
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

The Honorable Robin Weisz
Speaker
North Dakota House of Representatives
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

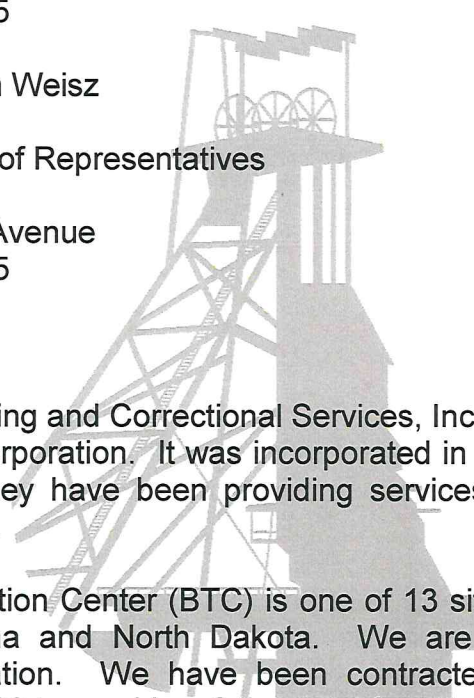
RE: **SB2128**

Community, Counseling and Correctional Services, Inc. (CCCS, Inc.) is a private, not-for-profit, 501-c(3) corporation. It was incorporated in 1983, with its' headquarters in Butte, Montana. They have been providing services for local, state, and federal agencies since 1983.

The Bismarck Transition Center (BTC) is one of 13 sites operated by CCCS, Inc. in Washington, Montana and North Dakota. We are accredited by the American Correctional Association. We have been contracted by the ND Department of Corrections since 2002 to provide a full range of services to adult offenders.

I have been the Administrator of the Bismarck Transition Center since December 1, 2010. I have spent my entire career in corrections, which began in 1981. I have held progressively responsible positions within the ND DOC&R and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

This bill will have a negative impact on the residents who reside at the Bismarck Transition Center, citizens of North Dakota, local businesses in the Bismarck/Mandan area and the staff who are employed here.



The mission statement of CCCS, Inc. states: "CCCS is a team of individuals dedicated to meeting the human service needs of youths and adults to promote healthy living through treatment, training and supervision."

In line with our mission statement, the Bismarck Transition Center provides the following core practices to assist residents as they transition into the community:

Treatment Programming

Treatment programming at the Bismarck Transition Center includes Drug/Alcohol treatment, Thinking for a Change and Aftercare. During calendar year 2024, 43 residents completed Thinking for a Change, 71 residents completed drug/alcohol treatment and 48 residents completed Aftercare.

The Women's Treatment and Recovery Unit was opened in September 2023. This unit was created at the request of the ND DOC&R. It is a 90 day, secured, highly structured, therapeutic treatment unit. The unit houses 20 residents. Programs offered include: Seeking Safety, Responsive Risk Reduction for Women, Living Skills, Anger Management, Beyond Trauma and Living in Balance. A Parenting group will be added in the near future.

Within this program, residents gain coping skills to help them deal with traumas, triggers for relapse and overall well-being. Since its inception, 81 women have successfully completed the program.

Case Management

Case Managers are assigned to each resident prior to their arrival. They work with each resident until the day they are discharged.

Many residents come to the Bismarck Transition Center with only the clothes on their back. Case Managers assist them in obtaining clothing from clothing closets in the community, such as Seeds of Hope or Community Action.

All residents are required to gain employment while housed here. Many residents arrive without any form of identification or social security card - both of which are required to obtain employment. Case Managers assist in this process. As of today's date, 87 residents are employed by local businesses throughout the Bismarck/Mandan communities. The bulk of these residents are employed in the food service, construction and hospitality industries. Residents are employed at the same rate of pay as any other employee.

Case Managers assist residents in obtaining employment. Residents are given a list of employers in Bismarck/Mandan who hire felons, they assist residents applying for jobs on-line and we provide transportation to Job Service.

Residents of the Bismarck Transition Center are responsible for their own health care and medications. Within the first week of a resident's arrival, Case Managers provide application forms for Medicare and assist them to fill it out, if needed.

Some residents are required to attend treatment service in the community. Case Managers assist in this process. Community resources that are frequently used are: Heartview Foundation, Blessed Builders and Summit.

Residents are required to turn in all money earned while they are at the Bismarck Transition Center. Residents turn in a weekly budget request to their Case Manager for approval. The goal of this process is to teach residents how to budget money and to save for their discharge. Additionally, residents are required to pay 10% of their earnings towards fines, fees and restitution. During calendar year 2024, residents paid \$39,314.83 to fines, fees and restitution.

Residents are required to pay room and board during their stay. Room and board is deducted from their budget each week. Money collected from residents helps reduce the daily per diem rate the ND DOCR is charged.

Residents who are starting over and are looking for an apartment will normally need money for a deposit and first month's rent. Case Managers assist residents applying for ND rent help, food stamps and provide them a list of different food pantries in the community.

Some residents request to be discharged to a sober living house. Case Managers assist residents filling out the applications to sober living houses, such as: Blessed Builders, F5 Project, Hope Manor, Serenity Bridge and Tied for Second.

During calendar year 2024, 189 residents discharged successfully.

Security

Public safety is at the forefront of every operational decision made. This begins in the referral and screening processes prior to a residents' acceptance as a resident of BTC. Each resident goes through a referral process that is initiated by ND DOCR staff. BTC staff review each referral and determine if the referral is appropriate for BTC.

BTC meets with an Advisory Board on an annual basis. Members of the Advisory Board include: Dave Draovitch, Chief, Bismarck Police Department; Kelly Leben, Sheriff, Burleigh County; Kyle Kirchmeier, Sheriff, Morton County; Lance Anderson, Warden, Transitional Facilities, DOC&R and Mike Wetsch, Chair, Criminal Justice Department, United Tribes Technical College. The Advisory Board is provided with updates concerning facility operations. Additionally, concerns board members have regarding BTC are discussed.

Residents are required to submit a weekly schedule to their Case Manager for approval. Once their schedule is approved, residents are restricted to the scheduled activities and locations on their schedule. Residents are held accountable for following their weekly schedule through physical and phone checks, which our security staff complete. During physical checks, BTC staff enter the business and speak to managers related to the resident's work performance. During calendar year 2024, staff completed 3,407 physical checks on residents at their jobs or participating in treatment programming in the community.

All residents returning to BTC from the community receive a breathalyzer test and a pat search. During calendar year 2024, staff conducted 17,139 breathalyzer tests and 28,812 pat searches.

All residents are required to submit a urinalysis test upon arrival and throughout their stay at BTC. During calendar 2024, residents submitted 1,201 urinalysis tests. Residents who are not at their designated location, receive a positive breathalyzer or urinalysis test or attempt to bring contraband into the facility are subject to progressive disciplinary action, up to and including, removal from the facility and/or receiving new criminal charges. The referring agency is always consulted prior to removing a resident from the facility.

Resident's behavior is continually monitored throughout their stay at BTC. Residents who violate facility rules are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, removal from the facility.

This bill, as written, will have the following impact on BTC residents, staff, ND DOCR and the Bismarck/Mandan communities:

- It will eliminate the transitional opportunities that residents now receive at BTC. Residents who successfully discharge from BTC have completed treatment programming, are employed, have money and they have a discharge address that is not to a homeless shelter. The chances of their successful reentry into the community are much greater, than if they didn't have this opportunity.
- The ND DOCR will lose 140 resident beds that they currently use. All of the beds at BTC are cheaper than the per diem expense the ND DOCR currently pays.
- Local businesses will lose 87 resident employees.
- CCCS, Inc. will lose 53 BTC employees.
- Local businesses will no longer receive revenue generated from the operation of BTC.

As the Administrator of BTC, I firmly believe in the role that BTC plays related to Public Safety. Residents who complete our program are leaving with the tools they need to be successful. Residents who complete our program may be our neighbors someday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthaud". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "A".

Kevin Arthaud, Administrator
Bismarck Transition Center