

Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration
Senator Joel Heitkamp, Chairman
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Robyn Schmalenberger, Deputy Director for Transitional Facilities
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Division of Adult Services

I) Introduction: Prior to the reorganization oversight of transitional facilities was split between prison staff and field staff. The changes in the organizational structure and the creation of the Division of Adult Services have allowed us to more effectively use resources provided by the various transitional facilities and to ensure the services provided are following evidence-based practices.

Transitional facilities serve as both front-end alternatives to incarceration and as graduated release systems for individuals being discharged from prison. Both of these roles are necessary as evidence-based practices indicate lower risk offenders have better outcomes if they are diverted from the prison system and higher risk offenders have better outcomes with a graduated release system from prison. Transitional facilities are vital in promoting public safety and achieving the TPC goal of recidivism reduction.

Transitional facilities provide a structured living environment that allows offenders to participate in activities such as full-time employment, education, community programs, and family reintegration that would otherwise not be available in confinement.

Offenders are also able to build relationships with local service providers and other community support systems that will assist in maintaining long-term change. Engaging offenders in pro-social supports in their communities is critical to successful outcomes.

In addition to the community reintegration and employment opportunities provided, transitional facilities offer a variety of programs that target criminogenic risk areas.

- Chemical dependency treatment
- Cognitive/behavioral programming
- Gender responsive services for female offenders

Living skills (parenting, budgeting, employment skills)
Access to a number of community programs

II) Current use of Transitional Facilities:

Transitional Facilities are comprised of the following:

A) Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC)

- *Serves prison inmates

- Rapid Intervention Program

- Work and education release

- Automotive technology course

- Welding - metal shop

- Exploring opportunities to provide additional vocational/educational programming

B) Tompkins Rehabilitation and Correctional Center (TRCC)

- *Serves community referrals and prison inmates

- Collaborative relationship with the State Hospital

- Staffed by both DOCR and State Hospital employees

Contract Facilities

C) Bismarck Transition Centre (BTC)

- *Serves community referrals and prison inmates

- Male assessment center – Provides assessments for probationers who otherwise would be subject to revocation. Assessment team recommends appropriate plan of care. Assessment team consists of DOCR staff, BTC staff and DHS representative.

 - Chemical dependency evaluation

 - Mental health screening

 - Motivational assessment

D) Centre Inc. (Mandan and Fargo)

- *Serves community referrals and prison inmates

- Female assessment center

- Offer gender responsive services to address trauma and abuse issues and other issues unique to female offenders

E) North Central Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (NCCRC)
treatment program

- *Serves prison inmates

F) County Jail Transition Placements

*Serves prison inmates

When there is a need to place inmates in county jails we are changing the manner in which we are using the county jail facility. We are looking at the county jails as transition opportunities for offenders.

- Connected to local services
- Improves employment opportunities
- Better family reunification

II) Conclusion: With the placement of all transitional facilities under one umbrella and through TPC efforts we are working towards better utilization of existing resources and increasing collaborative relationships that may provide new opportunities. We are focusing on targeting criminogenic risk areas and providing skill training that will “add value” to offenders. These efforts will assist in reaching our objective of reducing recidivism.