

MENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD OF VISITORS
ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE MONTANA DEVELOPMENTAL
CENTER
June 21, 2012

The annual inspection of the Montana Developmental Center was completed in June 2012 and included an inspection of all living areas, recreation areas, habilitation/treatment areas and classrooms, dining and sanitary areas (in living units), vocational areas, and the medical clinic building as required under 53-20-104(4), MCA.

Recreation Area

The Recreation Department is housed in one of the older buildings on the MDC campus. The area is clean and the physical plant is in good condition. Indoor recreation areas consist of a multipurpose room, an exercise room (shared with the OT/PT department) a gym, a crafts room, a ceramics room, and an indoor heated aquatic therapy center. Additionally, here is a large grassy area in the front of the building and a baseball diamond in the back of the facility. In the summer, individuals are scheduled to swim at the City Pool. An extensive recreation schedule was provided to the BOV and reports by individuals served at treatment meetings reflect attendance and participation in a wide variety of activities – indoor and outdoor. Individuals served are encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and try new experiences while they are at MDC.

Habilitation/treatment Areas and Classrooms

There are a number of classes and activities that take place in the classrooms in the Treatment Services Building. These include: communications groups, reactive therapy groups, special education classes, cooking, nutrition and sanitation training, money management, health and medication training. The Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy (OT/PT) department provides treatment individually, for small groups of individuals. The Behavioral Health Department provides 1:1 and group therapy as well as anger management training and Sex Offender Treatment. Classes and groups appear to be sufficiently staffed and staff appears to be engaged with individuals during interactions and are knowledgeable about subject matter. Individuals served discuss their progress with pride during treatment planning meetings and rarely indicate that they want to discontinue a program.

Vocational Area

The Vocational Department provides work opportunities for individuals served at MDC. Some of the vocational opportunities offered include: laundry tasks, housekeeping duties, paper shredding, cardboard and aluminum recycling, watering plants, lawn care and clerical work. Individuals served are encouraged to work as part of a comprehensive treatment strategy. With the recent hiring of a new vocational supervisor, the department has expanded and formalized the role of vocational training in treatment. Vending machines have been removed from the area and the department has plans to open a canteen and small store.

Units 1-6

Units 1-6 are living environments that resemble group homes. The units range in capacity from 6-12 beds, in the near future, the administration plans to eliminate the use of double rooms, limiting the capacity in each unit. The units are clean and well kept. Several of the units require repairs from damage caused by individuals served. The interior of at least one of the units was recently painted. Staff to client interaction in each of the units varies. Interactions observed were respectful and staff appeared to be engaged in activity with clients in some areas. It appears that treatment is a focus in the units and

individuals served are encouraged to be as independent as possible. Meals are prepared in a central kitchen and served in dining areas in each of the units.

Assessment and Stabilization Unit (ASU) – Treatment areas and living units

Individuals who reside in the ASU area of MDC are on a levels program. Under this program, some individuals are restricted to the secure area of MDC and receive treatment inside the locked areas. Staff from the treatment disciplines – communication, OT/PT, recreation, special education, vocational services bring treatment to the individuals served inside the Unit. During this inspection a game of kickball was observed inside the fenced area of ASU and staff from multiple disciplines were involved. Arts and crafts projects are displayed throughout the ASU treatment building. ASU has three living units, each with a 4-bed capacity. The units are clean and well-kept. Kitchens in each of the units are being removed and remodeled to address safety concerns. Renovations in each unit will modify the laundry and staff offices areas. Staff in the ASU units appear to be more vigilant and less relaxed, likely due to the acuity of the need of the individuals served in this area of the campus. Interactions between staff and individuals served are more formal and personal boundaries are enforced.

Medical Area

Medical, psychiatric and dental care is provided at MDC. The primary care provider recently renewed her contract for the coming 2 years. A psychiatrist has been hired and will have office hours on campus 20 hours per week and will answer on-call needs. A dental hygienist is on staff part-time and a contract dentist holds clinic hours on campus regularly. Renovations are underway in the medial building that will be completed later this year to assure greater security for medications storage. The medical department, including medical records will move into the newly configured space before the end of the 2012.

Treatment/Habilitation Plan Review

The Advocacy Specialist for the Board of Visitors reviews treatment/habilitation plans and the MDC process for creating those plans on an ongoing basis throughout the year. This review is accomplished by reviewing treatment/habilitation plans in individual records and by attending treatment planning meetings with individuals served.

***MDC Site Review**

A facility site review was completed in November 2012.