



SPECIAL EDITION

MDOC TO CLOSE MOUND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; COMPETITIVELY BID ONE FACILITY AND PRISONER HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The goal of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is to provide the greatest amount of public protection while making the most efficient use of the State's resources. To fulfill that mission, the Michigan Department of Corrections will close Mound Correctional Facility in Detroit and will utilize the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to explore potential savings and options related to operation of Woodland Center Correctional Facility (WCC) in Whitmore Lake as well as management of prisoner health and mental health care services.

Closure of Mound Correctional Facility

For the past several years, the MDOC has been closing prisons as the prison population drops. The most recent data show:

- The Michigan prison population has decreased for the last four consecutive years from an all-time high of 51,554 in March 2007 to a total of 43,225 inmates as of September 23, 2011, a decline of 8,300 inmates (-16.1%). Michigan's prison population is at its lowest since 1998.
- There are approximately 700 open and available beds throughout the system.

Mound Correctional Facility is slated to be closed with a target date of January 7, 2012. It was identified for closure based on a variety of factors including: *overall operational costs, the facility population capacity, proximity to other prisons, the regional economic impact, and security issues related to its location in a densely populated urban area.*

The facility has 324.4 positions. Most are corrections officers. In addition, a number of food service workers, counselors, administrative support staff, program staff and administrative staff will be affected. When closing facilities, the Department will attempt to absorb as many staff as possible into current vacancies throughout the system and will work with the various unions and the Office of State Employer to reduce impact on staff. The Department will also work with other state departments, such as the Department of

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Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Michigan Works! agencies across the state, to take advantage of each agency's ability to assist with displaced workers.

Today, Department Administrators are meeting with employees at Mound Correctional Facility to discuss the closure and to provide initial information regarding their options.

Competitive Bidding of Services

The 2012 budget requires the Michigan Department of Corrections to utilize funding to ensure more cost-effective housing of prisoners. The budget language compels the MDOC to explore the use of public-private partnerships, the use of privately-owned facilities and the use of state facilities by third-party contractors.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12 budget also requires the Department to achieve savings through competitively bidding facility operations or other measures to reduce the custody, treatment, clinical, and administrative costs associated with the housing of prisoners. The Department will utilize the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to explore potential savings and options related to operation of WCC and management of prisoner health and mental health care services.

WCC houses up to 328 prisoners with serious mental health issues that cannot function adequately in a general population setting. With 346 employees providing services to those 328 prisoners, WCC has the highest per diem costs of any state correctional facility - \$290.20 per day, per prisoner, with an annual operating cost of \$34.7 million per year.

These decisions are very difficult ones, but ones that need to be made and carried out. The Department has tried to minimize the impact these decisions will have on staff, yet more difficult decisions lay ahead for the MDOC and the State of Michigan. It is important that each employee provide support for one another as these decisions are implemented. The employees of this Department are intensely professional and dedicated people who give their best each day to keep Michigan's citizens safe.