



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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May 25, 2021

TO: All Interested Parties
FROM: Executive Strategy Team
SUBJECT: Facility Unit Closure Update

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) has significant unused capacity within our DOC correctional facilities. This is due to several factors. A decrease in referrals and sentencing by local courts has been a contributing element. Also, population reduction efforts such as rapid reentry, furloughs, commutations, and the landmark *Blake v. State* decision has led to a decline in prison populations. Currently, at least 3,600 of our more than 18,000 beds are empty throughout our system today.

This reduction in prison population brings an equally significant opportunity to rapidly advance our reentry mission. We know that the science supports the concept that people are more successful when they transition into a community and are supported by resources before, during and after that transition. Our agency is dedicated to a reentry focus. This is about driving change and providing resources for individuals to advance a safe and successful transition to the community. This is an intentional, strategic shift to supporting our population in the community, in addition to support within our state's prisons.

The intentional passage of ESSB 5121 this past legislative session expands the individual eligibility for the Graduated Reentry (GRE) program to more than 2,600 currently incarcerated individuals in fiscal year 2022, and 3,000 incarcerated individuals in fiscal year 2023. While not all eligible individuals will be approved for this community-based program, many will move to this partial confinement option.

The expansion of our GRE program means more individuals will transfer to partial confinement than previously thought, reducing the need for prison beds. While the department supports reentry, we are very sensitive to the impact this shift may have on staff, incarcerated individuals and families of incarcerated individuals

The agency has been working on a draft unit closure plan based on criteria of education, programming, operational costs, age, and conditions of the units, as well as other factors. Our next step is to gather input from stakeholders as we consider these proposed changes. We are working hard on solutions and look to our labor partners and other stakeholders to provide input on how to lessen the impacts on those who work in our facilities as we implement these changes.

The following units have been identified as among those currently being considered for closure:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Unit(s)</u>
Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC)/WSRU	A, B, C, D
Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC)/TRU	B, C
Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC)/MSU	A, B

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Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW)	Bear
Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC)	C
Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (CRCC)/MSU	Camas
Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (CRCC)	E, F
Larch Corrections Center (LCC)	Silverstar
Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCC)	K
Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)/MSU	Unit 10
Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)	Golf
Olympic Corrections Center (OCC)	Clearwater

These unit closures will occur over a planned six-month time frame to reduce impacts to permanent employees. By managing the reduction in staffing on a gradual basis, increasing staffing provided in the ensuing budget, not filling existing vacancies, and using natural attrition, we are confident we will be able to mitigate impacts to permanent employees. Because of an earlier pause in hiring for our prison division, less people overall will be impacted.

The reinvestment of funds from such unit closures will help leverage more resources to support a shift of screened and approved individuals from a prison setting to the GRE program based in communities. Successful reentry relies on positive support systems such as family, employment, education, and targeted treatment, to reduce the likelihood of negative lifestyle choices which could lead to returning to prison. The intent of GRE is to improve public safety by targeting interventions and programs for incarcerated individuals who meet the requirements to transfer into the program, structured support and successfully transition into the community permanently.

We are committed to keeping you informed of updates regarding this topic of unit closures and thank you for your role in the way in which we support the success of the individuals reentering our communities.