



THE STATE OF WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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**Wyoming Honor Farm Implements
Intensive Treatment Program**

Riverton –In an effort to better address the substance abuse treatment needs of minimum custody inmates within the Wyoming Department of Corrections (WDOC), seventy-two beds (one prison unit) from the Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) at the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution in Torrington, WY, have been relocated to the Wyoming Honor Farm (WHF) in Riverton, WY.

For the past six months, WDOC staff in collaboration with WestCare Wyoming, the Department's contract substance abuse treatment provider, have been preparing for the addition of a new ITU at WHF. The program became fully operational on July 1, 2013.

This expands the continuum of substance abuse treatment available to inmates housed at WHF, reduces the need to transfer minimum custody inmates to a medium facility for treatment, and frees up much needed medium custody beds.

Preparing for the relocation was no easy task. The process involved changes to the physical plant, addressing the needs of additional staff, screening and assessment of inmates, and multiple inmate transports. "This was a highly collaborative effort, and it's to the expertise and credit of WHF and WestCare staff that this was accomplished with no major difficulties," said Sam Borbely, WDOC's Treatment Programs Manager.

During the week of June 17th while inmates were being transferred to the treatment unit, WestCare and WDOC staff participated in two days of training on the key principles, methods and practices of the Therapeutic Community Treatment Model.

Therapeutic Community treatment is an evidence based practice and one of the most powerful interventions available out of the various correctional treatment methods. Inmates with more severe and long term substance abuse and criminal behaviors who complete the program are less likely to relapse and return to criminal activity.

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The training was facilitated by Mr. Igor Koutsenok, MD, MS, a Director of the University of California San Diego, Center for Criminality and Addiction Research, Training and Application (CCARTA). He has authored and co-authored over 50 scientific publications and book chapters. Dr. Koutsenok has been invited as guest speaker and trainer to numerous conferences and professional gatherings nationwide and in more than 15 countries.

Westcare Wyoming is part of the family of non-profit organizations that make up the WestCare Foundation. WestCare is one of the nation's largest non-profit behavioral health organizations. In addition to the substance abuse services they provide for WDOC, they offer numerous programs services to other organizations to address a variety of health care issues including Mental Health, Corrections, Domestic Violence, Runaway and Neglected Youth, and others.

WDOC in conjunction with its professional treatment staff is committed to providing evidence based programs shown to be effective in reducing criminal recidivism and substance abuse relapse, which in turn improves community safety and creates fewer victims. The effectiveness of in-prison treatment is greatly enhanced when continuing intervention and treatment are provided in the community post release. Developing a seamless network of correctional intervention, treatment, accountability and ongoing support is a Departmental priority, and to that end inmates receive referrals for continuing community based treatment.

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