

Space needed for court-ordered transfers of sex offenders

Issue:

- Clients in the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) are court-ordered to receive sex offender treatment.
- When the court determines that clients have made sufficient progress, it may order their transfer from MSOP's secure facilities to Community Preparation Services (CPS), a less restrictive treatment setting on the St. Peter campus.
- At CPS, clients continue treatment while learning and practicing skills they'll need for a successful transition to life in the community once the court grants discharge. Under supervision and electronic monitoring, clients in CPS gradually earn increased liberty to move freely about the campus, take off-campus outings, volunteer and participate in other aspects of community life.
- The number of court-ordered client transfers to CPS has increased significantly in recent years as clients progress through treatment.
- Community Preparation Services has a capacity of 89 beds. Today, the program is currently full and as of February 7, 2020 there were 42 clients with court orders waiting for transfer to the program. More space is needed if MSOP is to comply with the growing number of court orders to transfer clients to CPS.
- Currently, eight lawsuits have been filed in federal and state district court by clients who have been on the waitlist for two years or more since the court issued transfer orders.

Proposal:

- The Governor's Local Jobs and Projects Plan recommends creating additional space in Community Preparation Services by funding a Phase II renovation project.
- Two buildings on the St. Peter campus will be renovated to add 50 new beds for MSOP clients in Community Preparation Services. A third building, Tomlinson Hall, will be renovated to provide more space for programs and staff. In all, more than 63,000 square feet of existing space will be renovated. The project would get underway in July 2020.

Benefits

- MSOP will have the capacity to meet the growing need for program and bed space for clients progressing through treatment.
- MSOP will be able to comply with court orders to transfer clients to a less restrictive setting.
- The proposal also addresses considerable deferred maintenance on MSOP facilities.

Fiscal impact:

- MSOP Phase II renovation, FY 2021: \$18.288 million

Related information:

- Governor's Local Jobs and Projects Plan on the Minnesota Management and Budget website:
<https://mn.gov/mmb/budget/capital-budget/current/>
- Minnesota Sex Offender Program Overview:
<http://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/sex-offender-treatment/>

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