



Memo

Date: June 4, 2025

To: Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons

From: Paul Schnell, Commissioner

RE: First Steps in Planning for the Closure of MCF-Stillwater

The decision by legislative leaders and Governor Tim Walz to close MCF-Stillwater in two phases over the next four years requires significant planning and preparation. DOC is committed to ensuring a careful and thoughtful approach that takes the needs and wellbeing of incarcerated persons into consideration.

Formation of a Planning and Implementation Structure

Last week, DOC created teams who will work together to create a framework for the phased closure of MCF-Stillwater. The effort is led by a Steering Committee made up of DOC leaders and wardens. Additionally, four subgroups have been created to make recommendations for 1) future programming at Stillwater, 2) impacts to staff, 3) transfers of incarcerated persons to other DOC facilities, and 4) communications and engagement. The work of the subgroups will be focused on minimizing disruption for incarcerated individuals, managing staff employment, and maintaining essential services. The Steering Committee will set milestones and provide direction for the work.

This will be a complex process with many moving parts. It is unlike anything the DOC has undertaken before. We know you have lots of questions, and we ask for your patience as we navigate this enormous change. We are committed to maintaining excellence in daily operations and will continue to provide updates as decisions are made.