



Healthcare Facilities Project

Behavioral Health Facilities Fact Sheet
August 2020

A New Vision of Care

Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) Behavioral Health facilities are moving toward a new vision of care for Wyoming's most vulnerable residents. One system will be shared between two facilities.

- The Wyoming State Hospital (WSH) campus is in Evanston.
- The Wyoming Life Resource Center (WLRC) campus is in Lander.

Making the New Service Vision a Reality

The needs of Wyoming residents served by both facilities has changed over time and will likely continue to evolve. WSH and WLRC will work together, offering integrated services as part of a new, more flexible approach to the state safety net. Clients/patients will be appropriately placed based on need. The new vision will lead to some shifts in duties and retraining for staff.

Wyoming State Hospital Care Plans

- WSH will provide acute (short-term, intensive) care for Title 25 commitments; acute, intermediate and long-term care for people under Title 7; and acute care for the geriatric-psychiatric population.
- Currently, much of WSH bed capacity is used by people with intermediate and long-term healthcare needs, which limits availability for patients needing short-term treatment and evaluation.

Wyoming Life Resource Center Care Plans

- WLRC will continue serving its current clients, but its future mission will evolve to serve new types of individuals. As part of an expanded mission, WLRC will also offer intermediate and long-term care for the geriatric-psychiatric population; intermediate and long-term care for those categorized as having high medical needs; long-term care for those categorized as hard to place; acute, intermediate and long-term care for emergency placements.
- While the need for lifetime care services for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities at facilities such as WLRC is decreasing overall, WLRC will serve individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability who have challenging behaviors and mental health needs that make community placement more difficult. For these clients, the goal is to find a community placement as soon as appropriate.
- The WLRC mission has been expanded to include skilled nursing services. WLRC will provide intermediate and long-term skilled nursing care to patients who have high medical needs, are hard to place or who have organic brain syndrome with exceptionally difficult behaviors.

Building Better Facilities for the New Vision

The physical condition of buildings and grounds at both campuses made it difficult to efficiently provide modernized treatment and care. As a result, a major public building and remodeling project is underway at both locations.

- At WSH, clients were served in multiple buildings, many with significant structural concerns, scattered over a large area. Remodeling and expanding an existing facility has created new patient treatment areas and a more consolidated, efficient campus.
- At WLRC, new buildings have been designed for active treatment, to meet licensing requirements for both current and future clients and better fulfill the new WLRC mission. New residential cottages are being built as home-like as possible and grouped in neighborhoods.
- This project is focused on providing a healing environment, promoting operational efficiency and sticking to the approved budget.
- The Wyoming Legislature appropriated \$182 million for the project.

Building Project Timeline

Design work for the project is complete.

- Construction began in 2018.
- For WSH, move in is expected September 2020. Work at WLRC is scheduled for completion in spring 2021.

More Information

Project updates are available online:

<https://health.wyo.gov/admin/health-care-facilities-project/>