

Community Corrections Briefing

March 8th, 2023

Greg Mauro, *Director*
Division of Community Corrections
Denver Department of Public Safety

Request

23-0214: Amends a contract with CoreCivic, Inc. by adding \$2,500,000 for a new total of \$7,500,000 and one year for a new end date of 6-30-2024 to continue providing residential and non-residential reentry services to individuals returning from incarceration, while other placement options are pursued, citywide (SAFTY-202158407-00/ SAFTY-202366340-01).

Background

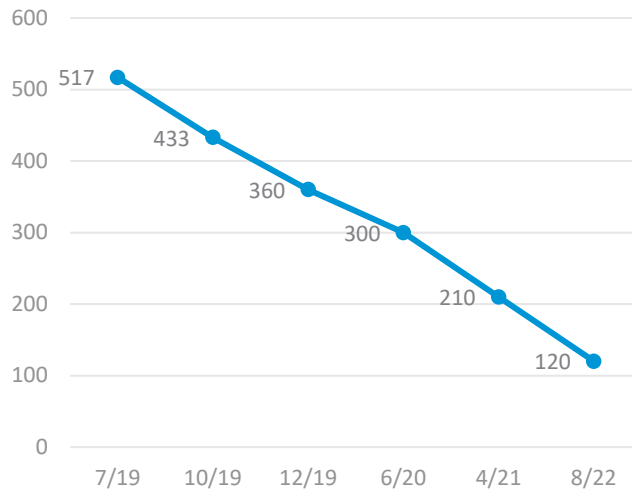
In 2019, City Council took action that required a transition away from for-profit, private organizations as community corrections providers.

Denver Community Corrections commenced a thoughtful, responsible transition strategy in 2019:

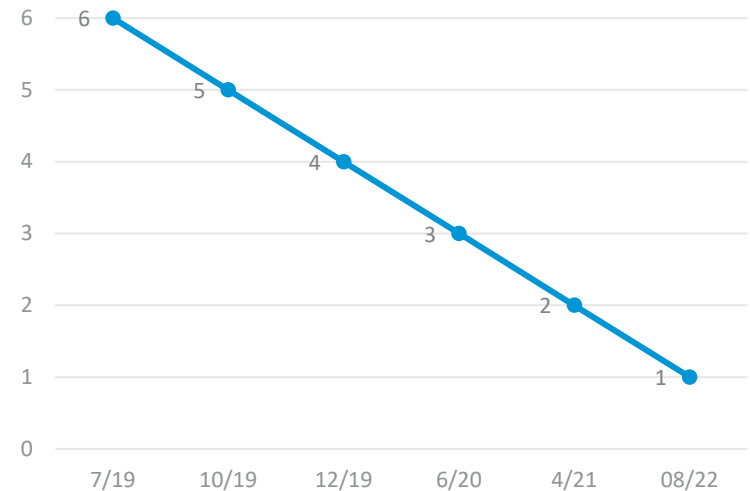
- Williams Street Center (GEO) closed October 2019
- Tooley Hall (GEO) closed December 2019
- Columbine (CoreCivic) closed June 2020
- Ulster (CoreCivic) closed April 2021
- Fox (CoreCivic) closed December 2021

Progress: GEO and CoreCivic Reductions in Denver 2019-2023

Combined 77 % Reductions for
CoreCivic and GEO Bed Capacity
7/19-2/23



Combined 84% Reductions in the
Number of GEO & CoreCivic Facilities
in Denver 7/19-2/23



Planning for Change

Community Corrections Advisory Group (CCAG) was formed in late 2019. They developed 10 recommendations and two additional concepts for exploration.

Recommendation #03: Feasibility of lease or purchase and identification of additional service providers

- *The City should explore the possibility of leasing or purchasing one or more CoreCivic community corrections zoned properties.*
- *The City should also explore opportunities to identify additional service providers including promising or emerging operators expressing an interest in the provision of community corrections services.*

Moving Forward: Project Elevate

Denver Community Corrections has diligently worked to stand up sustainable community-based programming.

Project Elevate opened in 2022 in partnership with The Empowerment Program:

- May 2020 – Competitive Request for Information (RFI)
- October 2021 – Competitive Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Ongoing in 2021: Renovations & construction
- Women’s programming began August 2022
 - Gender responsive
 - Trauma informed

Quote from participant:

*“I’ve never had this want, this urge to do right and this program gets you there. It makes you want to do something with your life,” Gutierrez said. “You get the feeling like hey, they care...I just want to see everyone get it because I’m getting it this time. I want to share that with whoever I can, whoever wants to listen to me.”**

*Mathurin, D. (2023, January 5). Project: Elevate, Denver’s new residential reentry program, is focused on individual experiences and care. *Denverite*. Retrieved March 1, 2023, from <https://denverite.com/2023/01/05/project-elevate-denvers-new-residential-reentry-program-is-focused-on-individual-experiences-and-care/>.

Moving Forward: IMPACT Center

IMPACT* Center opened in January 2023 providing services to men

Formerly was the EMBARC** program, a pilot initiative focusing on cognitive-behavioral interventions (pilot ended June 2022)

Located on the Denver County Jail campus

- Separated from secure areas of jail
- Civilian staffed and operated (no DSD deputies assigned)
- Renovations to reduce institutional environment 2022
- Operational practices are normalized to support re-entry efforts
- Community Partners involved

*Intentional Men Practicing Accountability Compassion and Trust (IMPACT)

**Enhancing Motivation By Achieving Reshaped Cognition (EMBARC)

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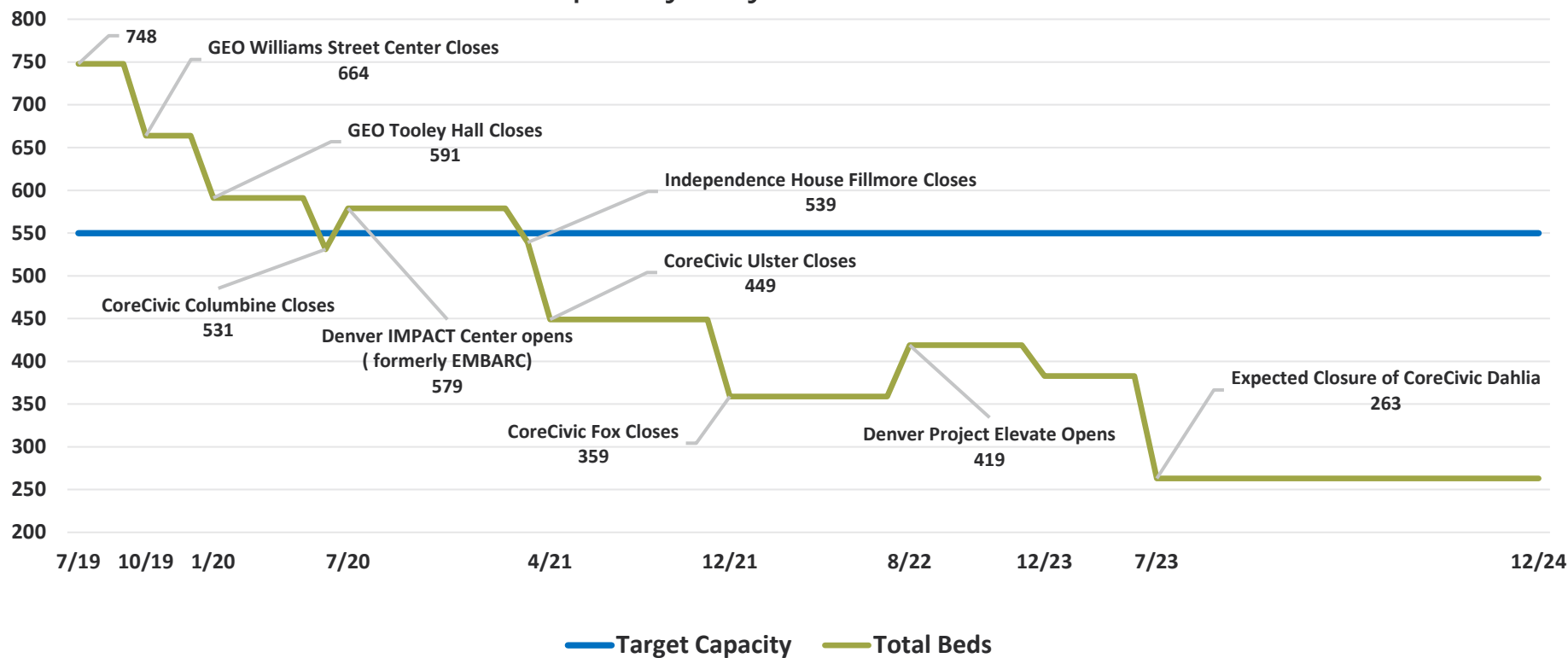
Property Acquisition Update

Status as of February 2023

- The Division of Real Estate is finalizing the Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) to purchase Dahlia from CoreCivic
- Close on the Dahlia facility first quarter 2024
- Anticipate the PSA will be presented to FinGov at the end of March

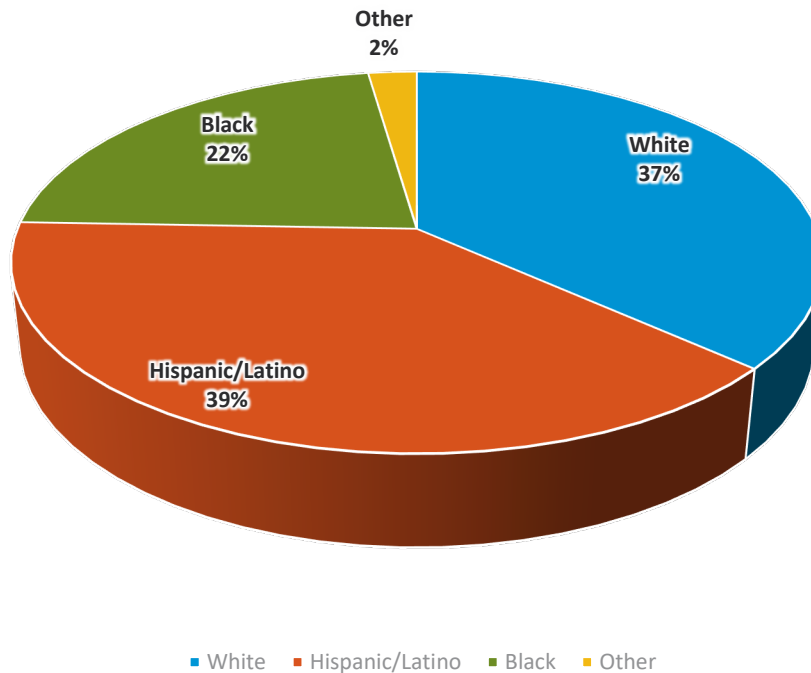
Community Corrections Bed Capacity

Denver Community Corrections System
Total Bed Capacity July 2019 to December 2024



Community Corrections Waitlist

Race & Ethnicity for Persons Awaiting
Community Corrections Placement in
Denver Jails: as of 2/24/23



As of 02/23
Direct Sentence
Waitlist: 132
individuals

DOC Transition
Waitlist: 162
individuals

Contract Extension Request

Through June 2024 for up to 120 beds at the Dahlia St. facility

If contract is not extended:

- Further destabilizes Denver's community corrections program with reduced bed capacity
- Reduced opportunities for sentencing alternative for Courts
- Reduced opportunities for returning residents
- Increased waitlists for persons in jail
- Loss of in-county services and placements for offenders convicted of a sexual offense

If extended:

- Provides for continued placement options while concurrently seeking and building new options
- Offers stability for employees and clients currently placed or seeking placement
- Maintains necessary flexibility and placement options
- Funding only provided if services are provided
- Aligns with City vision to provide improved programming for community corrections services

Questions?