

Manitoba Developmental Centre Transition Update – November 2023

Sent on behalf of Melanie Ferg, CEO, Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) and Craig Wynands, A/Director, Adult Disability Services

Transition planning has been ongoing throughout the summer months. We continue to ensure that resident transitions from MDC to the community are supported, person-centered, individualized and focused on each resident's support needs and preferences while ensuring continuity of care.

As of November 1, 2023, forty residents have transitioned from MDC to the community, while seventy residents continue to live at and receive supports from MDC. Alternative supported living arrangements in the community have been identified for all seventy residents remaining at MDC.

The Resident Transition Team & Resident Transitions to Community

The Resident Transition Team & Resident Transitions to Community updates can now be found in the MDC Transition - Community Homes Monthly Update. They are shared with resident families; MDC staff; and community agencies and advocacy groups. The latest information can be found in the November 2023 update which was shared with you earlier this month.

Although there hasn't been a lot of residents who have transitioned to community since our last update we continue to work and plan with agencies to ensure that resident transitions are person centered and that a real home is created for them in the community with appropriate supports.

Engaging Stakeholders

The Community Transition External Advisory Committee was formed in June 2021 and is comprised of:

- persons with lived experience;
- family members of current and past residents from MDC; and
- representatives from community agencies, The Southern Chiefs Organization, People First Manitoba, Community Living Manitoba, Inclusion Winnipeg and Community Living disABILITY Services.

The committee provides feedback on key areas of the transition process through a community inclusion, person-centred and rights-based perspective. After taking a short break from formal meetings over the summer, the committee has returned to their regular monthly meeting schedule.

Supporting Staff

The Workforce Adjustment Team continues to actively explore options to minimize impacts of this transition on MDC staff and to support those seeking future employment. This includes career planning workshops, career fairs, and discussions with applicable unions, Staff are provided updates regularly.

With these efforts there is an ongoing commitment to maintain staffing resources to support residents and minimize the impact through the transition process. Staffing levels remain consistent even as the number of individuals residing at MDC decreases.

Evaluation

St. Amant, in collaboration with the University of Manitoba and the Department of Families, will be evaluating resident transitions from MDC to the community to ensure that residents from MDC are transitioning successfully.

The evaluation will look at:

1. The community transition process during the closing of MDC from the perspectives of the MDC's Residential Transition Team, Community Transition External Advisory Committee, and Internal Community Transitions Advisory Committee.
2. The short and longer term impacts of community transitions on the health and quality of life of the residents who transitioned from MDC.
3. The impact of the transitions of residents from MDC to the community on their families and care providers.

To date a part-time research coordinator was hired; a dedicated evaluation working group was established and met for the first time; a University of Manitoba Health Research Ethics Board application for the evaluation was compiled and submitted; and a work plan has been drafted for review.

Participation in the evaluation will be completely voluntary and require consent from individuals, their families and/or their substitute decision makers to participate.

Next Steps

It is anticipated that resident transitions to the community will slowly increase over the upcoming months, with the majority of transitions occurring in 2024. We will continue to work with residents, their families, support networks and agencies in preparation for the upcoming resident transitions to the community.

Additionally:

- The Community Transition External Advisory Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis.
- Work will continue with the Workforce Adjustment team and efforts to support staff as part of this transition are ongoing.
- The evaluation work plan will be finalized and approval to begin the evaluation is anticipated.

As always, your ongoing commitment and collaboration with the department as residents transition to community living are greatly appreciated.

Melanie Ferg
Chief Executive Officer
Manitoba Developmental Centre

Craig Wynands, A/Director
Disability and Specialized Services
Adult Disability Services