

Manitoba Developmental Centre Transition Update – March 2024

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

We are entering our third year of resident transitions to community living and by now you will have received the Monthly Update for March 2024, which indicated as of March 1, 2024, 64 residents have transitioned from MDC to the community, while 45 residents continue to live at and receive supports from MDC. Transition planning for all 45 residents remaining at MDC is continuing.

As previously communicated on December 8, 2024, it is anticipated that the completion of resident transitions to community will occur by the end of summer 2024, with full closure of MDC expected by the fall 2024.

The extended timeline is the result of a number of external factors that have impacted community transitions, including construction and renovation times to develop safe and accessible homes, licensing and permit application and approval timelines, and ensuring that community and staff resources are in place to safely support individuals in the community.

The Manitoba government remains committed to working with our community partners to ensure that all remaining residents from MDC transition to the community as soon as their homes are ready, and their support needs can be safely met in the community.

The Resident Transition Team & Resident Transitions to Community

Updates on resident transitions to the community 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 Resident Transition Team continues to work and plan with agencies to ensure that resident transitions are person centered and appropriate supports are in place prior to their move. Follow up with residents who have transitioned has been positive with adjustments being made as needed. The transition team continue to meet weekly to review the status of upcoming developments and transitions.

Engaging Stakeholders

The Community Transition External Advisory Committee was formed in June 2021 to provide feedback on key areas of the transition process through a community inclusion, person-centred and rights-based perspective. The committee 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.

Discussion with the committee highlighted the importance of taking into consideration “The Right Way: A Guide to Closing Institutions and Reclaiming a Life in the Community for People with Intellectual Disabilities” (March 2010), created by People First of Canada-Canadian Association for Community Living Joint Task Force on Deinstitutionalization, when transitioning residents from MDC to the community.

As a result, the Community Transitions - MDC’s Guiding Principles document was drafted. This document outlines how recommendations from the Right Way were adopted in the MDC transition process to create real homes in the community for individuals transitioning from MDC. The document is currently being finalized and will be published on the Department of Families’ website.

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. Staff are provided with regular workforce updates.

There continues to be an ongoing commitment from staff to support residents throughout the transition process. Operational staffing ratios continue to remain in place, as the number of individuals residing at MDC decreases.

Evaluation

The University of Manitoba, in collaboration with St Amant, 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.
2. The 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.

Approval to begin the evaluation has been received and evaluation activities have started. This includes a review of documents relating to the transition process as well as a survey of committee members.

Additionally, a number of residents who live or lived at the MDC have been randomly selected as potential participants in the evaluation. However, before these residents can participate, support from their families (when applicable), consent from their Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) and the individual’s agreement (when reasonable) is needed.

Again, participation in any part of the evaluation is completely voluntary and all responses and information will be kept confidential. No personally identifiable information will be associated with the data and responses collected or reported on.

Next Steps

It is anticipated that resident transitions to the community will continue over the upcoming months. 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 and preparation for release of the Community Transitions - MDC's Guiding Principles document on the Government of Manitoba's website will continue.
- Work will continue with the Workforce Adjustment team and efforts to support staff, as part of this transition, are ongoing.
- Evaluation activities will continue and some preliminary data analysis is anticipated.

We look forward to our continued work together as residents transition to community living.

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