



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

# Therapeutic Community



April 22, 2026

# Purpose and Objectives

- To support highly structured treatment targeting criminal thinking and substance use disorders
- To provide comprehensive care in a safe and nurturing environment
- To serve those exhibiting a high level of need for intervention plans

**“Community as Method”**



# Unit Structure

## CORRECTIONS

### Treatment Unit

- 48 beds
- Structured therapeutic interventions

### Transition Unit

- 48 beds
- Intakes and graduates



# Therapeutic Community Team

Oversees the operations of the therapeutic community

Members include:

- Housing Captain
- Case Manager
- Behavioral Health
- Medical
- Education
- Re-entry
- Administration



# Referral Process

Referrals are made at the time of intake and through clinical interactions.

## Referral Factors:

- Severity of Substance Use
- Length of Sentence
- Available Space
- Identified Treatment Needs



# Life on the Unit

## CORRECTIONS

- 4 cohorts of 12 offenders (6 person rooms)
- Behavioral Health Programming
  - Matrix, A New Direction, CBISA
- Education Programming
- Employment
- Socialization
- Recreation and exercise
- Hobby development



# Incentives

Incentives will be “earned” and not “entitled”

- Additional phone privileges
- Increased visitation opportunities
- Increased commissary spending limit
- Additional commissary items
- Additional recreation opportunities
- Permitting personal room décor
- Earned discharge credits



# Discharge and Re-entry Planning

CORRECTIONS

Aftercare

Transition Unit Housing

Peer-led Programming



# Challenges

- Offender motivation and readiness
- Staff motivation and readiness
- Prison environment
- Sentence length
- Measuring program effectiveness



# Community as Method

## CORRECTIONS

Community is much more than belonging to something. It's about doing something together that makes belonging matter.

-Brian Solis





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Questions?

Thank you!