

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Alice M. Emmons, Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

FROM: Mourning Fox, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Mental Health

DATE: February 8, 2019

SUBJECT: Capital Budget Proposal, Fiscal Years 2020 & 2021, Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence Replacement

[Capital Budget Proposal](#), Fiscal Years 2020 & 2021, Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence Replacement, Section 2(1)(A):

A. Middlesex ~ Therapeutic Community Residence - Replacement ..... \$5,000,000

The Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence (MTCR) was constructed as a temporary 7-bed facility in response to Tropical Storm Irene. The current facility is in dire need of replacement and is well beyond its useful life. The proposed replacement facility will be a 16-bed, state owned facility in central Vermont. FY 2020 funds are requested to allow AHS and BGS to locate property where a new facility could be built in central Vermont, to evaluate the property, and acquire a suitable site. The funds will also be used to begin the design and permitting process. FY 2021 funds will be used to complete the design process, receive bids and to begin construction.

Summary	Approved Through FY '18	Current Year FY '19	Budget Year FY '20	Budget Year FY '21	Future Requirements			Totals
					FY '22	FY '23	FY 24-FY '29	
Cost Allocation:								
Planning & Design, Outside Consultants			500	200				700
Site Acquisition	50		500					550
Construction				3,800	9,492			13,292
Fit-Up								
Total Appropriation for Fiscal Year(s)	50		1,000	4,000	9,492			14,542

## Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) continues to recommend the replacement of the Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence (MTCR). The seven-bed secure residential program, temporarily sited in Middlesex, was created from Act 79 in 2012. The intent of the legislature in creating MTCR was to create a step-down facility for those who were no longer in need of inpatient care but continued to need intensive services involuntarily in a secure setting. In order to be placed at MTCR, an individual needs to be in the custody of the DMH Commissioner on an Order of Non-Hospitalization (ONH). While many individuals receive services in the community under an ONH, in order to be placed at MTCR the judge needs to specifically find that the clinically appropriate treatment for the patient's condition can only be provided safely in a secure residential recovery facility.

The MTCR was designed as a temporary facility, using Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) funds until a long-term residence could be completed/identified. The temporary facility is failing and must be replaced, or the state will have to reimburse FEMA. The state is at risk for a claw back of roughly \$1.2 million, an inability to receive additional funds of up to \$800,000 for the construction of the temporary facility and another \$350,000-450,000 for decommissioning the temporary facility in Middlesex. Buildings and General Services (BGS) and the Agency of Human Services (AHS) have requested an extension until July 1, 2022.

Leading up to the last legislative session, AHS, DMH and BGS had begun touring properties for a new secure residential facility. However, when the University of Vermont Health Network proposal came out and included a plan for the secure residential to be in the vacated Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) building, this activity ceased. Now that we know the new beds at Central Vermont Medical Center will not include the VPCH 25 beds, the search for a new facility for the secure residential needs to begin anew. This search is the highest priority for AHS.

This information is also found in the Agency of Human Services Facilities Report, located [here](#).