

FEBRUARY 22, 2023



A horizontal row of logos and text. From left to right: the Vermont state logo (a green mountain silhouette) followed by the word 'VERMONT' in a serif font; the circular seal of the State of Vermont Department of Corrections; the logo for HIA (Hardy and Associates, LLC) in white text on a black square; the logo for fff (Freeman, French, Freeman) in white text on a red square; and the logo for McFarland Johnson, which features a stylized green and blue wave graphic above the company name.

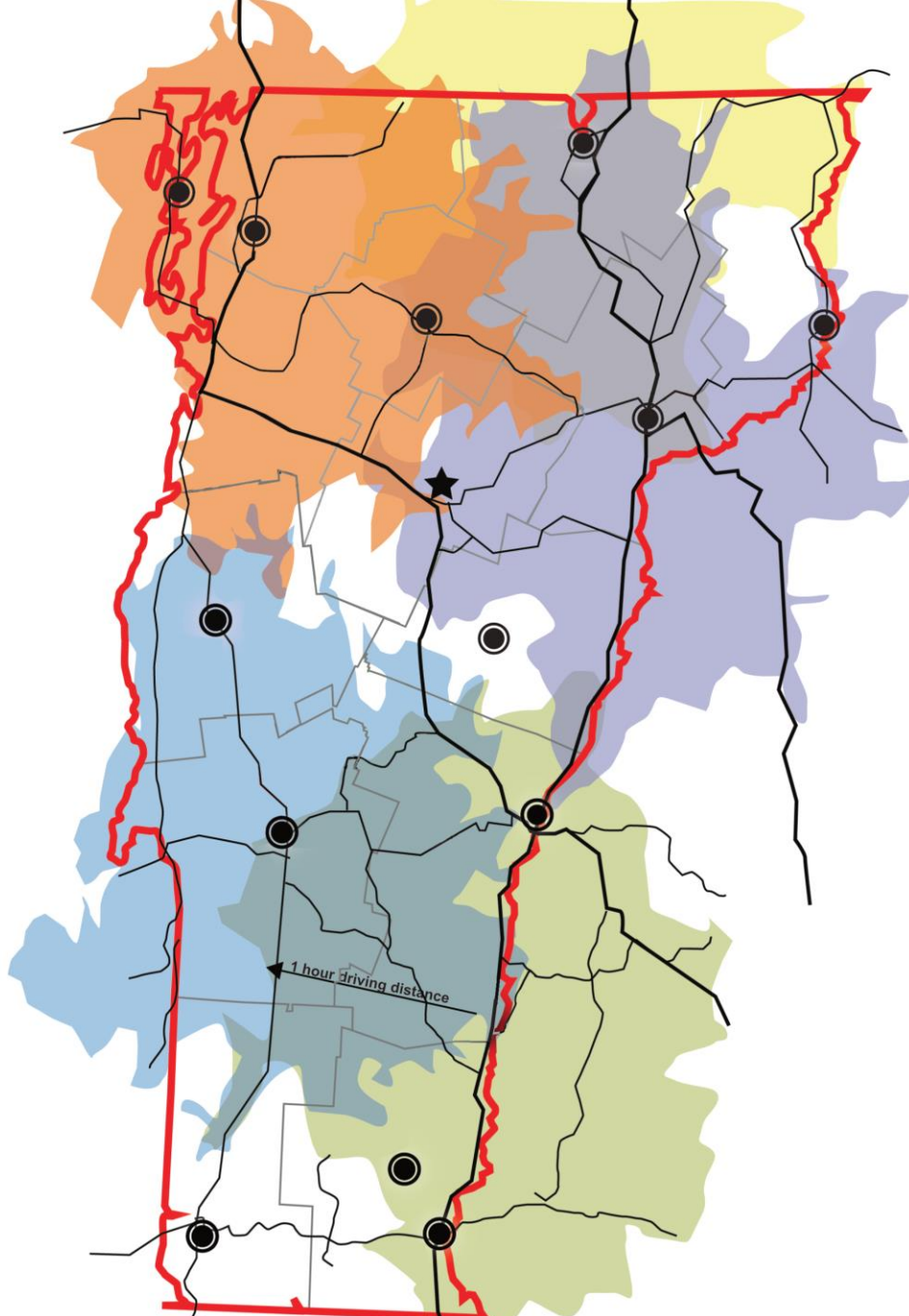
Jeff Goodale

Senior Principle | Director of Justice

Ryan Rohlfs

Senior Associate | Senior Project Architect





From 2020 to 2021, HOK developed a **correctional facility feasibility and conceptual design study**.

The recommendations made within the 2021 report were a series of strategies to align the Vermont correctional system with the Department of Corrections mission statement.

In all strategies, **Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) was recommended to be closed and replaced with a new women's facility** ideally located in the northwest region of the state.

In 2022, HOK was selected to expand on the work previously completed. This phase includes the **programming and conceptual design of a new women's correctional and re-entry facility**.

In order to properly develop a new women's facility, the team reviewed the previous projections of the 2021 report and overlaid current female incarceration data.

VISION Statement

"We create safety and equity by seeing potential, supporting change and serving communities."

Our MISSION

The Vermont Department of Corrections:

- Leads through innovation
- Supports staff wellness
- Creates rewarding career opportunities
- Ensures our facilities and field offices are safe, secure and healthy
- Provides justice involved individuals with opportunities for self-improvement
- Cultivates meaningful partnerships
- Advances restorative justice practices

VALUES

Accountability | We, individually and collectively, act in accordance with our mission and values in service to our vision

Collaboration | We succeed when we have diverse and equitable partnerships that include our communities and the people in our care and custody

Compassion | We treat everyone with respect and dignity and respond empathetically to people's lived experience.

Equity | We address systemic barriers that hinder opportunity and use fair and impartial decision-making.

Innovation | We use evolving research, data analysis, and expertise from diverse communities to identify, develop, and implement effective practices.

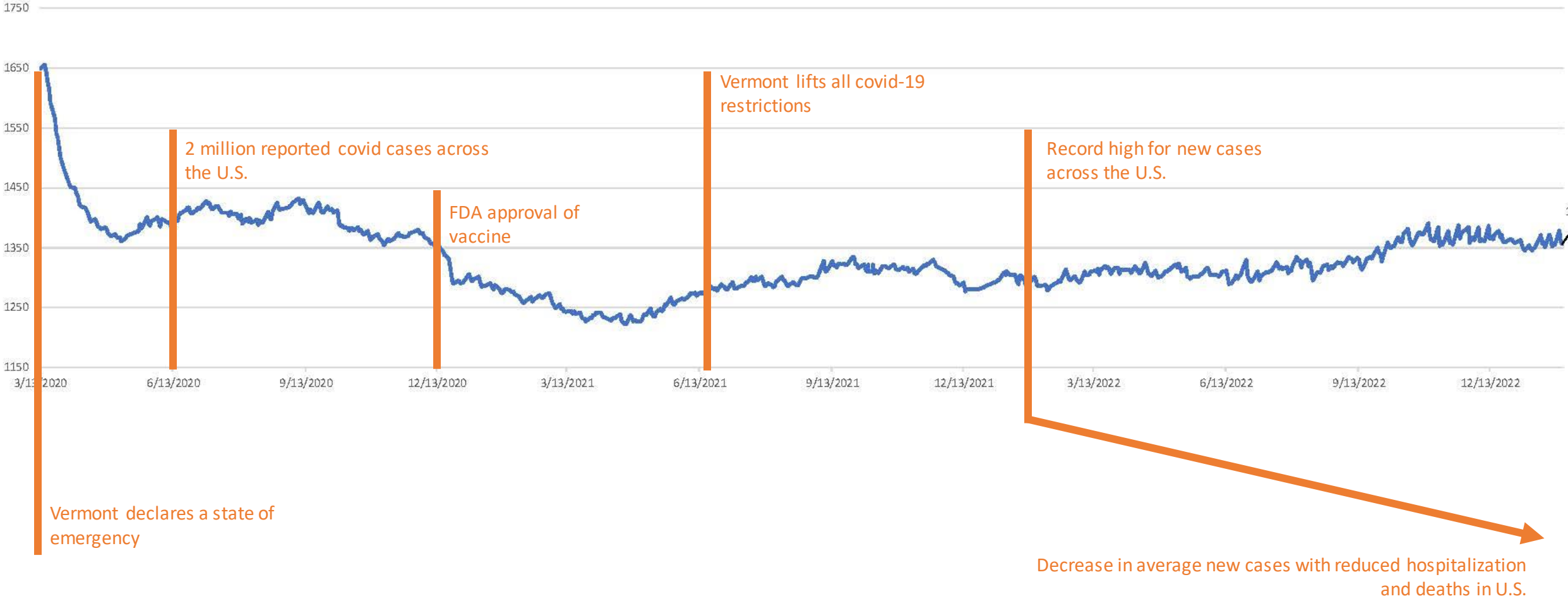
Integrity | We practice our values in an honest and transparent way.

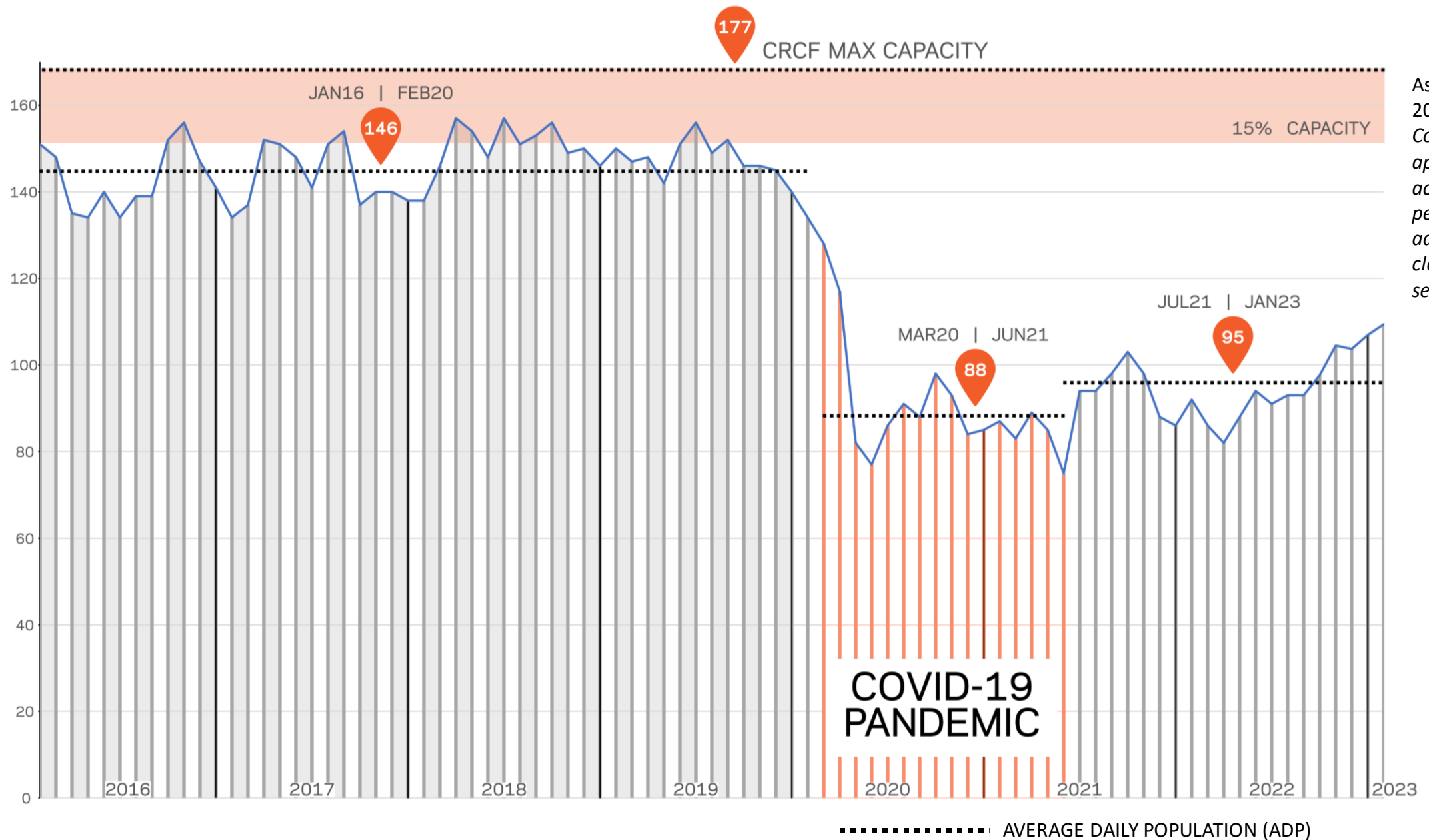
Safety | We create an equitable culture of physical, emotional, and material wholeness.

HUMAN

Population Data

VT DOC Facility Population 03-13-2020 – 02-01-2023





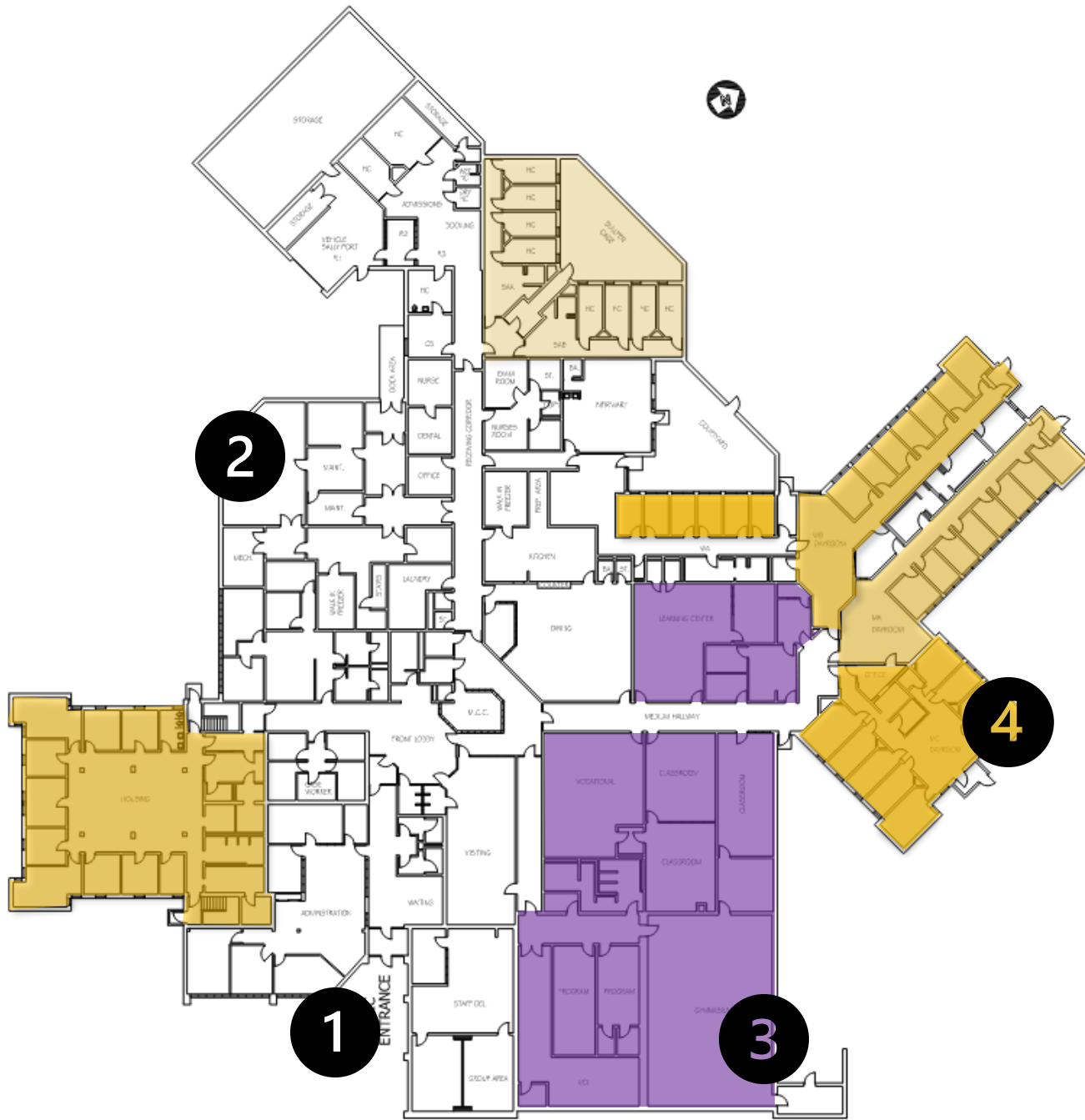
As referenced in the 2021 Existing Conditions Assessment; applying the 85% rule accommodates routine peaks and allows for additional population classification and separation.

Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF)

**CHITTENDEN
REGIONAL
CORRECTIONAL
FACILITY**







CRCF EXISTING CONDITIONS

1 In 2020, the Department of Justice identified several ADA violations that need to be corrected in the coming years.

2 It is estimated to need over \$5 million dollars in deferred maintenance. In addition, it is estimated to need \$5.5 million in scheduled capital maintenance over the next 10 years.

Overall, a “Poor” Facility Condition Index per the 2016 assessment which has further deteriorated

3 Inadequate program space

4 Limited housing classification flexibility

Lack of staff support spaces

Traditional institutional feel and not gender/trauma informed

High staff to incarcerated individual ratio. In 2020 there was 1 security staff member to every 1.56 incarcerated individual



- 1 Poor quality of lighting, does not respond to occupants' circadian rhythm
- 2 Poor natural daylight with typical institutional bars on windows
- 3 Mildly therapeutic color scheme
- 4 Rooms are not fully ligature resistant
- 5 Hard institutional furnishings
- 6 Blind corners and inefficient use of space
- 7 Upper bunks are dangerous and difficult to get up to
- 8 Inability to maintain thermal comfort



Bed Analysis

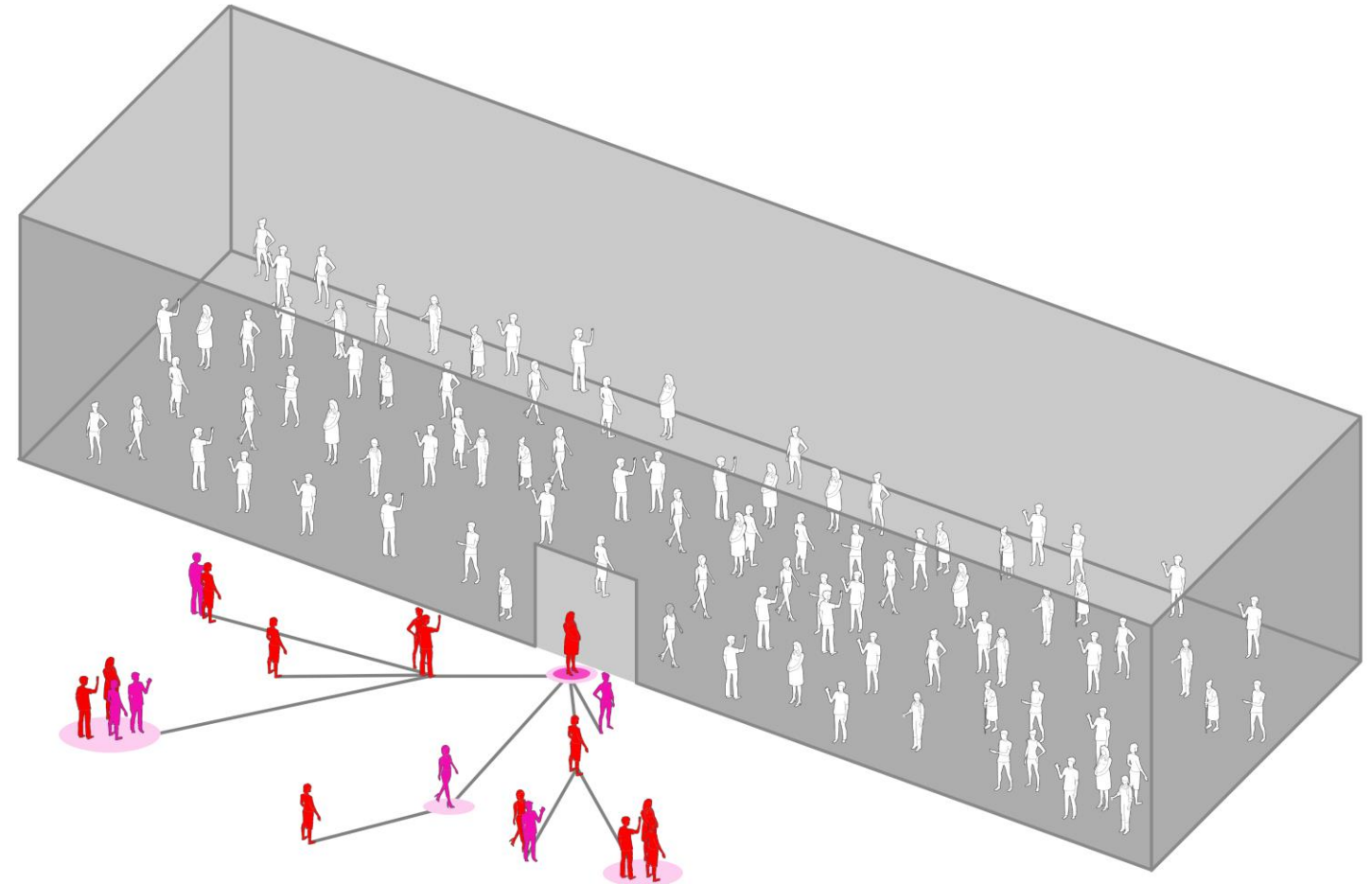
Due to COVID there was an unprecedented number of court casts waiting to be adjudicated. In an article by VTDigger, on January 12th, 2023, stated that 1,156 felony cases and 2,205 misdemeanor cases were pending for longer than two years. *With so many individuals awaiting a hearing there is a level of instability in the average daily population.*

Nationally, female rates of incarceration have been rising. After a 37% decrease from midyear 2019 to midyear 2020, the number of females confined in local jails increased 22% from 2020 to 2021.¹

A gender responsive approach is better suited to incarcerated women. Studies have shown that a majority of individuals have experienced some form of trauma, mental health or substance abuse issue. As a result, facilities need to provide the flexibility to sustainably house and support treatment.

The American Prisons and Jails study recommends that a community should determine the capacity of its correctional institutions and should adopt procedures for accelerated release when a facility nears capacity.

*Diversion programs and careful management of other alternative programs are also recommended.*²



¹ Jail Inmates in 2021 – Statistical Tables; Bureau of Justice Statistics

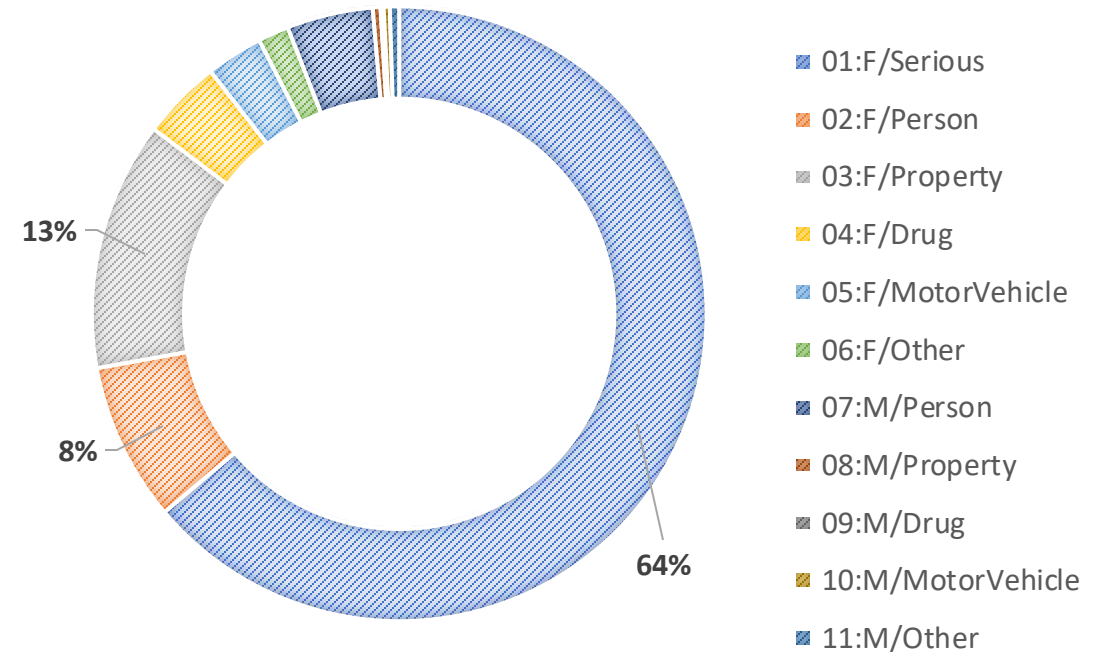
² Relationship of Jail Capacity to Jail Overcrowding; L. Smith

POPULATION DATA

| FEMALE POPULATION | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| MONTH | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| January | 151 | 134 | 138 | 150 | 134 | 87 | 92 |
| February | 148 | 137 | 146 | 147 | 128 | 83 | 86 |
| March | 135 | 152 | 157 | 148 | 117 | 89 | 82 |
| April | 134 | 151 | 154 | 142 | 82 | 85 | 88 |
| May | 140 | 148 | 148 | 151 | 77 | 75 | 94 |
| June | 134 | 141 | 157 | 156 | 86 | 94 | 91 |
| July | 139 | 151 | 151 | 149 | 91 | 94 | 93 |
| August | 139 | 154 | 153 | 152 | 88 | 98 | 93 |
| September | 152 | 137 | 156 | 146 | 98 | 103 | 98 |
| October | 156 | 140 | 149 | 146 | 93 | 98 | 104 |
| November | 147 | 140 | 150 | 145 | 84 | 88 | 104 |
| December | 141 | 138 | 146 | 140 | 85 | 86 | 107 |
| Annual ADP | 143 | 144 | 150 | 148 | 97 | 90 | 94 |
| % of ADP | 8.13% | 8.14% | 8.66% | 8.47% | 6.66% | 6.95% | 7.22% |

The female population averages **7.75% of the system ADP** over the last 7 years. This percentage has been increasing over the last 3 years consecutively but remains below the pre-pandemic average.

OFFENSE TYPE

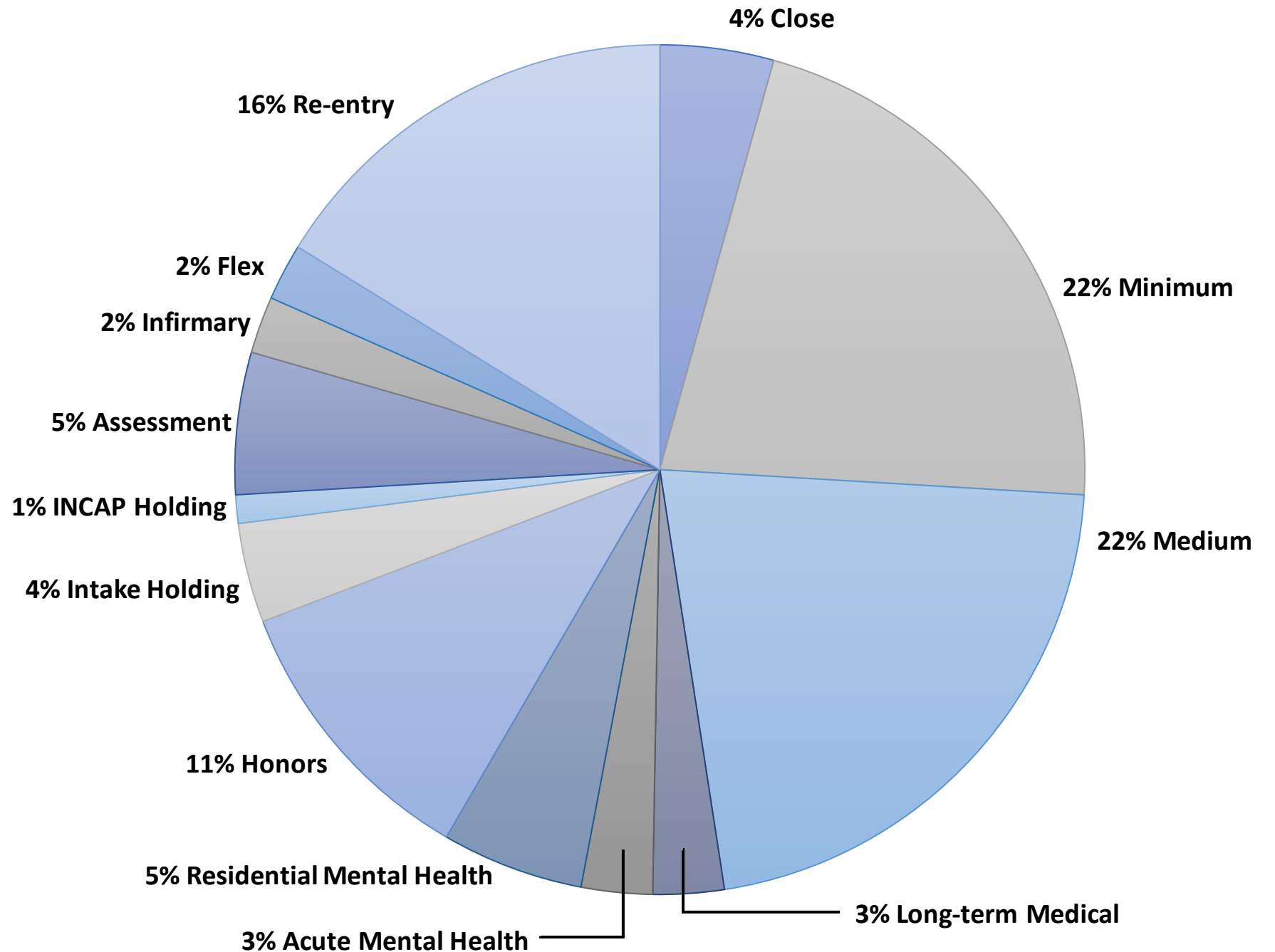


64% of offenders are being held for a felony, serious offense according to point-in-time data from 8/12/22

Accommodating additional flexibility is crucial for the female facility as it is the only female facility in the system.

Additional space allows for additional opportunities for the DOC to respond to pandemics.

Additional capacity allows the movement of incarcerated individuals within the facility for maintenance and renovations.



Right-sizing

WASTED FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Over allocation of operational and staffing allocations

Potentially unutilized facility space

Opportunity costs of other state needs

Local procedure misalignment

ENDANGERED RELATIONSHIPS

Trust between DOC, BGS, State Government and other stakeholders



CONSEQUENCE OF BUILDING TOO LARGE

POSSIBILITY OF SENDING WOMEN OUT-OF STATE IF POPULATION EXCEED PRE-PANDEMIC NUMBERS

Less physical visits and support

Relocation stress on incarcerated women

Potential misalignment of risk and needs

Strain on child/parent/family bonds

INADEQUATE LIVING SPACE FOR POPULATION AND POPULATION GROWTH

Forecast of increased population

Routine spikes in population (typically 10-15% above rated capacity)

Inability to properly separate by classification

Inability to respond to routine maintenance or renovations

ADDITIONAL NEEDS FOR EXPANSION

More facility and planning expenses

Under allocation of operational and staffing allocations

INADEQUATE PROGRAMMING SPACE FOR RE-ENTRY AND THERAPEUTIC NEEDS

Education and vocational spaces

Medical and mental health treatment

Re-entry and life skills readiness

Substance abuse treatment and education

CONSEQUENCE OF BUILDING TOO SMALL

Strategies

BENEFITS OF CO-LOCATION OF CORRECTIONAL AND RE-ENTRY FACILITIES

Visual connection between facilities can reinforce goal-setting for individuals for re-unification.

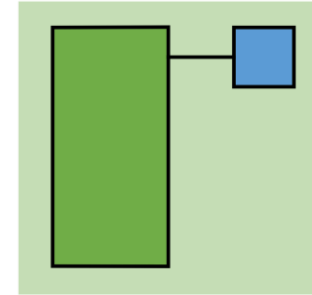
Provides better continuity of care and access to support for released individuals.

More efficient operation resulting in lower operating costs and reduced staffing:
Average CO vacancy from 12/21 to 7/22 was 24% across all facilities.

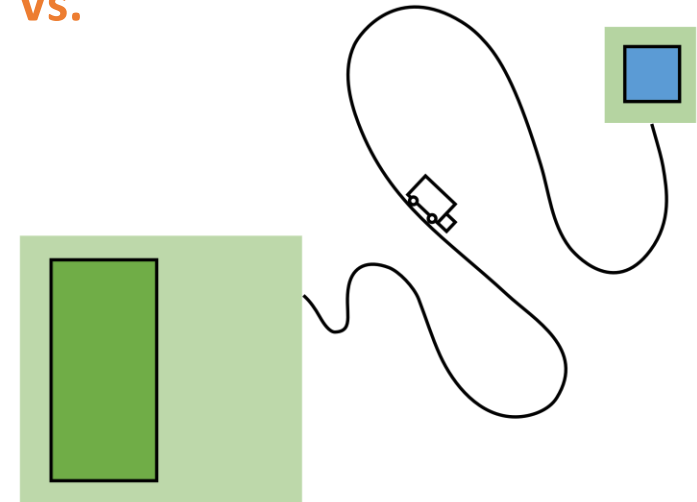
A single campus would likely require a single accreditation for health services.

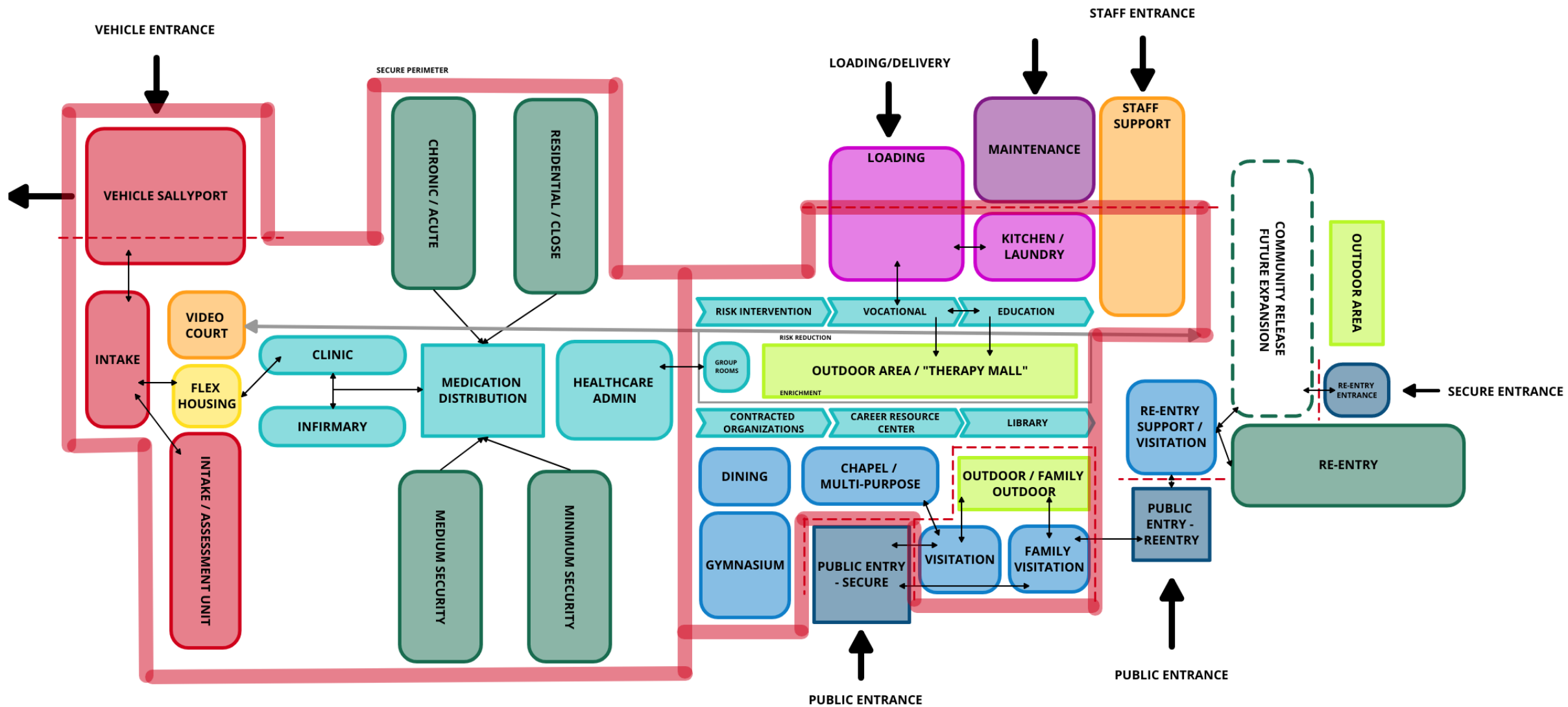
A single campus would allow for opportunities to share expensive infrastructure such as:

- Clinical space
- Food service
- Laundry
- Administrative space
- BGS operated maintenance space
- IT/security systems
- Sewage treatment facility
- Backup generators
- Potential to share central utility plant and fuel storage system

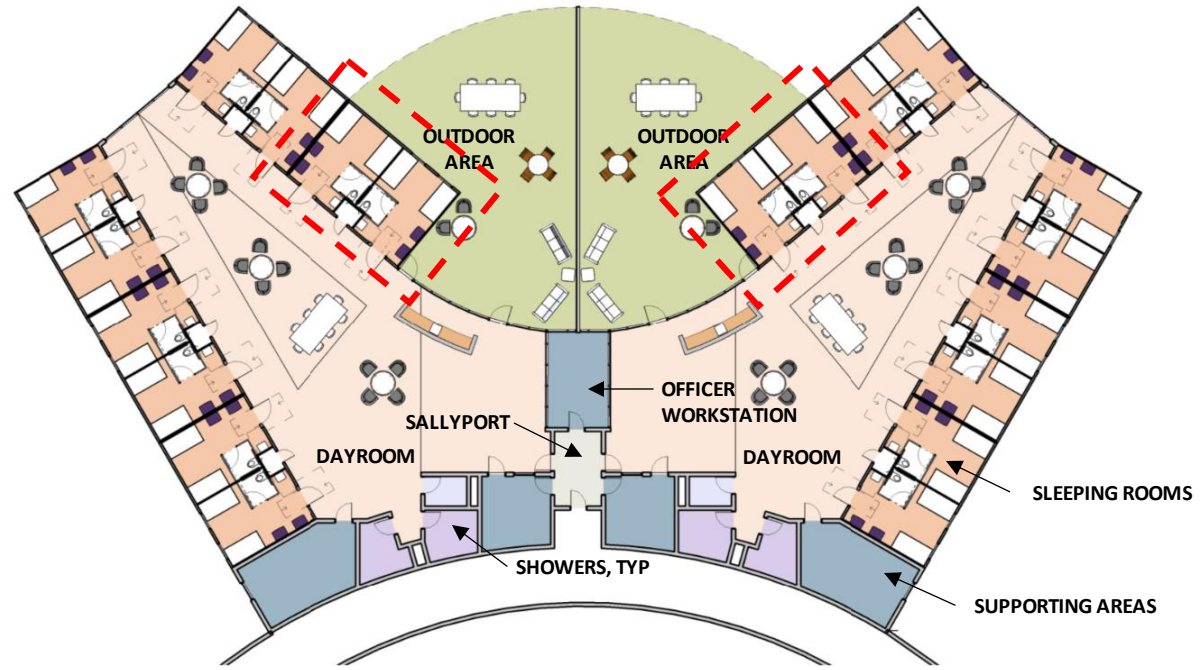
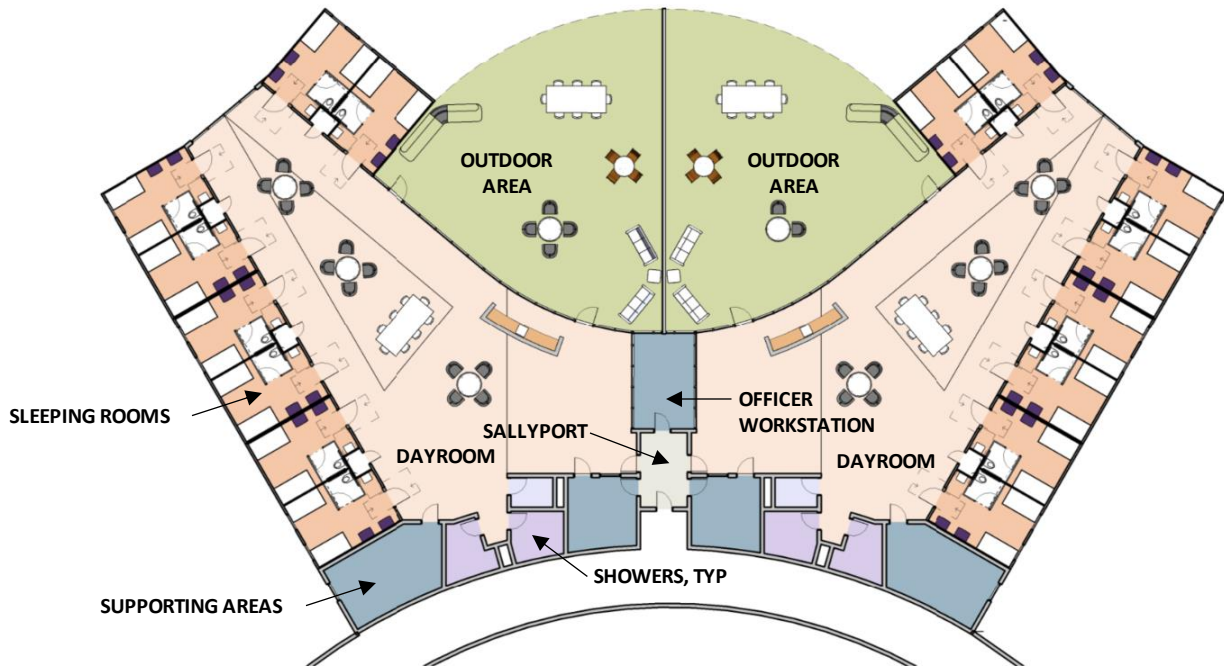


Vs.





ADJACENCY DIAGRAM



| 32 BED HOUSING UNIT | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| SLEEPING ROOMS | 2,457 SF |
| DAYROOM | 5,241 SF ✓ |
| SUPPORT AREAS | 1,325 SF ✓ |
| GROSS SQFT TOTAL | 9,023 SF |

+/- **7%**
 GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE INCREASE
 FOR 8 ADDITIONAL BEDS WITHIN A
 UNIT

| 40 BED HOUSING UNIT | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| SLEEPING ROOMS | 3,071 SF |
| DAYROOM | 5,241 SF ✓ |
| SUPPORT AREAS | 1,325 SF ✓ |
| GROSS SQFT TOTAL | 9,637 SF |

COMPARISON OF 32 vs. 40 BED HOUSING UNIT

1 SENSORY BOUNDARIES

Create permeable membranes within spaces to modulate sensory information.

2 IDENTITY ANCHORS

Create touch-points for personalization.

3 NESTED LAYERS

Create options for interaction and withdrawal.



1 SENSORY BOUNDARIES

Differentiation in ceiling materials, like wood, will add warmth, resonate sound and texture and provide differentiation of space

2 IDENTITY ANCHORS

Mural of local landscape to create sense of place and connection to nature.

3 NESTED LAYERS

Varying types of non-institutional furniture to break up large space into smaller intimate spaces.



1 SENSORY BOUNDARIES

Natural light stimulates senses and reduces stress.

2 IDENTITY ANCHORS

Curved walls add visual interest and breaks up long spaces.

3 NESTED LAYERS

Varying ceiling heights provide spaces for collaborative interaction and lower, more intimate spaces



1 SENSORY BOUNDARIES

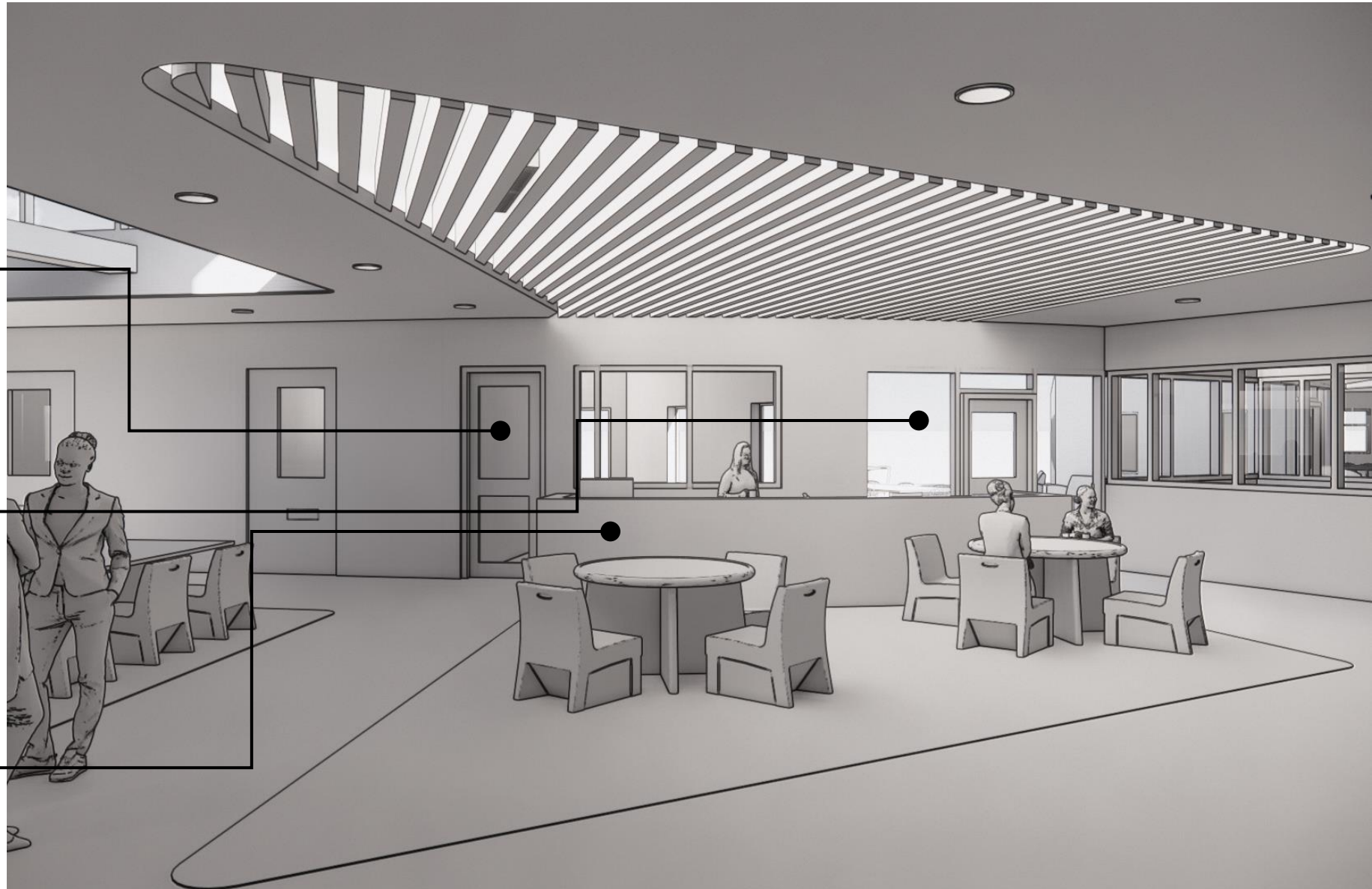
Respite rooms off housing units allow for decompression and meditation.

2 IDENTITY ANCHORS

Outdoor recreation areas off the living units provide more autonomy.

3 NESTED LAYERS

Textural elements and extruded volumes will break down the space to a human-scale.



1 SENSORY BOUNDARIES

Larger space allocation for secure lavatories and toilets for increased provide privacy and space for feminine hygiene.

2 IDENTITY ANCHORS

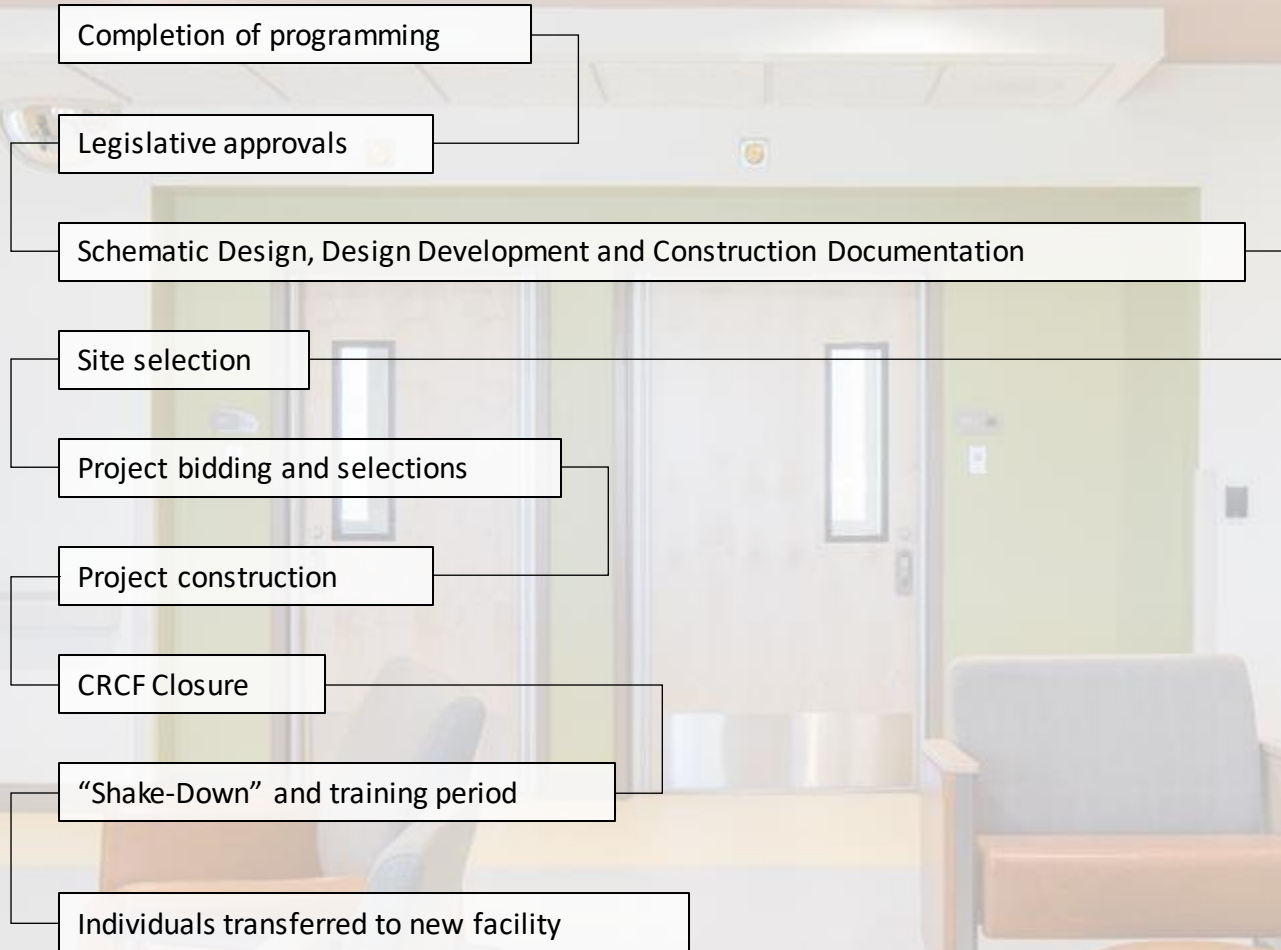
Multiple points of personal storage provided for each resident

3 NESTED LAYERS

Desk niche creates a distinct moment of separation and intimacy with views to the exterior from the sleeping rooms.



Next Steps



Precedents



















Questions