

As you know, later this summer the female offender population at MLCC will move to WTSP Site 1. Site 1 is converting to a female facility and Site 2 will operate as a high-security male prison. Each site will operate independently. This shift in offender population will assist in managing the growing female population and provide relief to our partners operating county jails.

This change at WTSP also gives us an opportunity to focus on re-entry efforts for our male population. TDOC strives to help reduce or eliminate barriers to reentry by focusing heavily on rehabilitation. After the mission change at WTSP is complete, Mark Luttrell Correctional Complex will become a transitional employment center for male offenders nearing the completion of their sentences. This shift advances our focus on ensuring returning offenders have the programming and education necessary to reenter the community ready to work.

Phase 1 of this plan involves getting WTSP Site 1 ready to receive female offenders. This includes changes to the physical landscape as well as training for staff on our focus on the female offender population. The Facilities Planning Team has been hard at work preparing WTSP to house female inmates. This includes installing ladders on the bunk beds, revamping lighting, and upgrading the showers.

As for the staff, currently the leadership of MLCC is in the process of transitioning to WTSP Site 1. This team, along with the Correctional Administrator and the Director of Women's Services, will lead the staff as WTSP Site 1 evolves to become the Women's Therapeutic Residential Center (WTRC). This facility will operate as a modified therapeutic community providing an environment that emphasizes right living through responsibility, accountability and peer support. This is a major shift for TDOC and training is underway.

Once WTRC is operational, work will begin on Phase 2 of the mission change. Phase 2 involves the transition of MLCC from a female facility to a male transition center. Facility changes and training for MLCC staff will take place toward the end of the summer. The anticipated date for male offenders to arrive at MLCC is tentatively set for September 2016.