

Transition Center adds beds

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The Bismarck Transition Center has added more than 90 beds to its facilities.

Marcie Conmy-Fisher, director of the Transition Center, 2001 Lee Ave., said the facility now has 155 beds, and the staff has grown from 30 employees to 50.

The first residents were taken to the new part of the center on April 28, and the construction was completed on June 14, she said.

The Transition Center works to ease selected male prisoners back into the community and to relieve the overcrowding conditions in the prison system, Conmy-Fisher said.

The prisoners cannot be sex offenders or have excessively violent backgrounds to be accepted, she said.

The Transition Center expanded because the state Department of Corrections put out a request for an assessment center, Conmy-Fisher said.

The assessment center will evaluate men who are out on parole or probation and who have violated the conditions of their release, she said. Rather than go through the court system and end up back in prison, qualified men can be placed in the Transition Center.

The Transition Center opened in August 2002. Residents are required to find employment, stick to a budget and do community service. They are gradually allowed leisure time to develop hobbies and can visit the library up to three times per week, Conmy-Fisher said.

Residents also receive drug and alcohol treatment, she said.

"I would say the majority of our guys -- their crimes have been because of drugs and alcohol," she said.