

CCCS gets OK on youth home

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County commissioners approved a measure Tuesday allowing a Butte-based group to move forward with plans to take over a cash-strapped youth home here.

The Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission unanimously approved a resolution allowing the county to lease the Discovery House building at 800 S. Main St. to Community Counseling and Correctional Services.

"This is a good deal, and this is something Anaconda should be proud to have," Commissioner Pete Lorello said.

County legal staff has yet to draft the lease terms, but the county will likely let CCCS use the building for \$1 a year, county Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Guay said.

If all goes as planned, CCCS will take over Discovery House for three years, maintaining existing services and staff, said the home's director Carole Kovacich.

"I will run the program here as far as the house is concerned," she said.

Founded 32 years ago by a Catholic nun, Discovery House has nine beds for troubled youth, who arrive there from a variety of circumstances. While the home has long struggled to balance its books, it fell deeply into financial trouble last November.

CCCS's intervention is the home's only chance for survival, Kovacich said.

CCCS is a non-profit organization that runs private corrections and rehabilitation facilities across Montana, including the Butte Pre-Release. The organization contracts with the state and federal governments to house inmates.