

# WATCH East service contract open

By Charlie Denison  
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A Thursday walk-through for potential bidders interested in operating the felony DUI program at WATCH East was attended by only one corporation, the one that currently runs it.

Community, Counseling and Correctional Services Inc., a nonprofit corporation out of Butte, has operated WATCH East with the Montana Department of Corrections since it opened on Feb. 1, 2005.

The service contract for WATCH East and the original WATCH program in Warm Springs is currently up for bid as required by law. With no one attending either the Glendive or the Warm Springs walk-through last week, Program Coordinator Deb Dion said she is relieved yet cautious that the program will continue with CCCS.

The request for proposal, issued on Aug. 3 by the Adult Community Corrections Division of the MDOC, remains open for bids.

"It's not a real judgment thing," said Treatment Contract Program Manager Rick Deady. "It just means (other interested parties) didn't show."

CCCS Director of Treatment Programs and Services Dave Boyd is very pleased with the job CCCS employees have done at the facility.

"They have a phenomenal success rate," he said. "I'm really impressed with the staff and the programs here."

## *Both sides of treatment*

Boyd has experienced both sides of successful treatment programs.

Growing up in Butte, his parents owned a bar, then known as The Mint.

The bar scene began to feel

a little too much like home for Boyd and he became a heavy drinker at a young age.

"I became an alcoholic, a junkie," he said. "I had to talk my parents into selling the place in the '80s."

After extensive rehab, Boyd decided to turn his life around and started going to school in Butte. He then worked at a juvenile facility where he found his niche. He has since worked for several treatment centers and even ran WATCH West temporarily.

Boyd is just one example of the many empathetic treatment program employees in the state. Unlike most states that have prison-based treatment centers, Montana has seven community-based treatment centers.

"Montana's so proactive as far as treatment programs go," said Boyd. "This is something we should be proud of."

## *Program success*

WATCH East has proven to be a successful correctional facility with its low rate of repeat DUI offenders. Recent statistics show that 96 percent of WATCH East graduates do not get another DUI.

No one has ever escaped or even attempted to escape from the facility.

CCCS treats the men and women in the program like adults and always gives them opportunities to shine, allowing them to look at themselves in a different light, according to Dion.

"They want these people to succeed," said Kathleen Fritsch, a professor at Dawson Community College and WATCH East English teacher. "That's one reason they do."

Interested bidders who wish to contract services for WATCH East have until Oct. 2 to submit their proposals with a contract award planned for December.