

Treatment center ceremony planned Governor among dignitaries to attend

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Gov. Steve Bullock will join local officials, business leaders and others in Butte on Wednesday to dedicate the \$5 million Montana Chemical Dependency Center.

The new building on East Mercury Street will provide around-the-clock, inpatient care and treatment services to about 700 patients in Montana each year, with up to 48 staying there at any one time.

More than 55 people employed at the current center at the old Silver Bow General Hospital on Continental Drive will move to the new facility in early January, when operations will begin in earnest.

The center was designed, built and financed by Community, Counseling and Correctional Services, Inc., or CCCS, a private, not-for-profit organization that provides numerous services in Butte.

CCCS will lease the facility to the state to operate for at least 19 years, Mike Thatcher, chief executive officer at CCCS, said Monday.

Thatcher said because of changes in Medicaid rules, the old, multi-story hospital no longer met reimbursement eligibility standards for a treatment center.

The new building includes separate, 16-bed wings for male and female patients and a central administrative building that will provide detoxification for alcohol and other drugs and chemicals.

"The rooms have adjoining bathrooms and everything is state-of-the-art," Thatcher said. "It has everything that is conducive to good treatment and counseling."

Wednesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony starts at 10 a.m. at the Maroon Activities Center at 550 E. Mercury St., across from the new center.