

CCCS selects staff; conducts program participant screening; and readies Eastmont Campus for February 1, 2005 opening

January 6, 2005 (Butte, Montana). Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services, Inc. (CCCS) Chief Executive Officer Mike Thatcher announced today the results of the recent staff recruitment process for the WATCh East Program to be located on the Eastmont Campus. According to Thatcher and CCCS human resource staff, CCCS received 127 applications for the 23 positions at the facility. During the week of December 27-31, 2004 CCCS corporate and program officials conducted 74 separate interviews for the positions. Qualified former Eastmont employees who applied for positions were given full consideration. Nineteen of the 23 staff were chosen from the local community.

Thatcher commented on the quality of the applicant pool as well as the difficult nature of the selection process: "The employee selection process for the available positions was very difficult given the quality and quantity of the applicants. The Glendive community certainly has a wealth of well-trained, educated, and committed individuals. Many members of the selection committees indicated that this was one of the most difficult staff selection processes that they had participated in."

Dawson county native Deborah Dion was selected as the program coordinator. Ms. Dion is a graduate of Dawson County High School, Dickinson State University, and Dawson Community College. She holds Bachelor of University Studies and an Associate of Applied Science in Chemical Dependency Counseling.

At the time of hire Ms. Dion was a Program Manager for AWARE, Inc. Prior to her employment with AWARE, Inc., from 1995-2003, she served as a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP) at the Eastmont Human Service Center. Deborah's proven management, direct care, and community relations experience distinguish her for the position.

Complimenting Ms. Dion will be following staff: Deb Kunnari, Clinical Treatment Supervisor; Tami Conrad, Addictions Counselor; LaVerne Trangmoe, Addictions Counselor; Allen Enrich, Case Manager; Paula Crumb, Case Manager; Gina Neva, Counselor Technician; Janice Kruger, Administrative Support Technician; Heather Campbell, Registered Nurse; Heath Grimes, Maintenance Technician; Trish Olson, Food Service Coordinator; John Beeler, Food Service Worker; Patty Smith, Security Coordinator; Bert Wiseman, Security Supervisor; Ray Semingson, Security Supervisor; Jim Deckert, Security Supervisor; John Holland, Security Supervisor; Kathy Stoner, Security Technician; Lois Buschette, Security Technician; Larry Stoner, Security Technician; Belinda Begger, Security Technician; Dan Schmidt, Security Technician; and Helen Wilburn, Security Technician.

Staff begin two-weeks of intense training on January 17, 2005 at the facility. The first week of training will be conducted by nationally recognized experts on the therapeutic community treatment model. Staff will then travel to Butte and Warm Springs on Monday, January 24, 2005, to tour existing CCCS operations and receive additional training at the WATCh Program.

CCCS also recently announced the composition of the program screening committee. Members include: Deb Dion, Program Administrator; Loreen Barnaby, Regional Administrator, Probation and Parole; Mike Benson, Assistant Chief of Police, City of Glendive; Wally Broeder, Hillcrest/Georgetown area representative; and Gary Gaub, community member at large. Committee alternate members are Lori Muller and Kimberly Jacobson.

All potential program participants at the WATCH East facility must be approved by a majority vote of the screening committee. At the committee's first meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 2004, members considered 26 applicants for the program. Many of these initial applicants are currently in the WATCH Program at Warm Springs, Montana. The committee closely scrutinized all cases and only approved twenty-four for the program.

CCCS corporate and program staff are also busy completing other tasks and attending to a variety of details necessary to activate operations including equipment ordering, vendor identification, and other purchases. CCCS is excited to begin operations at the Eastmont Facility. According to Chief Executive Mike Thatcher: "The WATCH East program represents hard work and a tremendous amount of effort on the part of the Montana Department of Corrections, Dawson County, the City of Glendive, and CCCS. We are excited to begin operations. Additionally, we are fortunate to be providing these critically needed services in such an excellent community as Glendive, Montana."

Thatcher also remarked: "CCCS looks forward to a mutually beneficial, long-term working relationship with the local community."

Screened and approved program participants will begin entering the WATCH East facility on February 1, 2005.