

Butte Pre-Release/Women's Transitional Center Awarded National Re-Accreditation

May 4, 2005 (Butte, Montana). Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services, Inc. (CCCS) Chief Executive Officer Mike Thatcher announced today that the Butte Pre-Release/Women's Transitional Center operated by CCCS has been awarded re-accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) as an Adult Residential Service. The award was made in January at the ACA Winter Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Butte Pre-Release/Women's Transitional Center was first awarded this prestigious accreditation in January 1999.

The Butte Pre-Release/Women's Transitional Center is one of over 1,500 correctional organizations currently involved in accreditation across the nation. However, the CCCS program is the only ACA accredited adult community correctional facility in Montana. Additionally, there are only a handful of ACA accredited correctional facilities/programs in Montana.

Upon receiving the award, CEO Thatcher and his staff were complimented on their professional level of operation and their success in completing the accreditation process. The accreditation award was made by Robert Garvey, Chairperson of the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC) and Gwendolyn C. Chunn, President of the ACA.

CEO Thatcher praised CCCS staff for achieving this national distinction:

"All of the staff at the Butte Pre-Release/Women's Transition Center must be commended for their hard work and dedication to providing only the most effective community-based correctional services. Indeed, without the commitment and perseverance of our staff, this award would not have been achieved."

He added:

"The entire Butte community and state of Montana for that matter should be proud of the fine work performed by our staff. In fact, the CCCS board and staff family is unparalleled in their commitment to public safety and the finest of correctional service delivery systems. The work of the corrections professional often goes unnoticed and, frankly, unappreciated. The men and women who work in the Butte Pre-Release/Women's Transition Center deserve kudos, praise, and a special thanks."

The ACA accreditation program is a professional peer review process based on national standards that have evolved since the founding of the ACA in 1870. The standards were developed by national leaders from the fields of corrections, law, architecture, health care, and other groups who are interested in sound correctional management.

ACA standards address services, programs, and operations essential to effective correctional management. Through accreditation, an agency is able to maintain a balance between protecting the public

and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health, and safety of staff and offenders. Standards set by ACA reflect practical up-to-date policies and procedures and function as a management tool for agencies and facilities throughout the world.

The three-year accreditation award to the Butte Pre-Release/Women's Transitional Center does not signal the end of their involvement in the accreditation process. During the award period, staff will work to improve any deficiencies identified during the audit and maintain continuous compliance with the standards.

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