

## **Ted Lechner Youth Services Center Fact Sheet**

### **History and mission**

The Center opened 30 years ago as a demonstration project to connect a juvenile specific secure detention facility with other juvenile services. The Center also includes a shelter care facility and various treatment programs. The Center was the first juvenile detention facility in Montana.

### **Juvenile demographics and statistics**

- Approximately 450 youth are admitted to secure detention annually
- 50 to 60% of the youth are released within 3 days
- Approximately 25% of the youth stay 30 days or longer
- 85% of the youth are males
- 80% of the youth have some involvement with drugs and alcohol

### **Programs and services**

- Staff members are called counselors, and have extensive juvenile services backgrounds
- Masters level therapists are available assess every youth
- Chemical dependency counseling group meets 5 times per week
- The program includes physical and passive recreation, education, church services, family visits and phone calls
- Chemical dependency and mental health evaluations are available to the Youth Court
- The Center is a pilot program for the Montana Behavioral Initiative

### **Safety and security record**

- There have been 5 serious suicide attempts in 30 years. All were stopped without serious injury to the youth
- Only 2 youth on youth assaults have occurred, with no injury to the youth
- There have been 4 youth on staff assaults, with minor bruises as the only injuries
- There has never been a successful escape from the secure facility.