

Boulder Transition Advisory Committee (BTAC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 19, 2015

BTAC special meeting was held at the Boulder City Hall on 10/19/15 at 8:02 am. Commissioner Cory Kirsch opened the meeting by welcoming the attendee's and going around the room for introductions. There were 21 people in attendance. An email directory continues to be developed and participants were encouraged to check their addresses. October's regular meeting minutes were reviewed and motion made and seconded to approve the October minutes. Motion passed.

1. Commissioner Cory Kirsch reviewed the purpose of the special meeting for the group. Purpose of the meeting was for the group to develop a clear prioritization of reutilization concepts of the MDC (Montana Developmental Center) Campus in Boulder to be presented to the MDC Closure Committee.
2. BTAC Representative Terry Minow and Commissioner Bob Mullen gave the group an overview of the upcoming MDC Closure Committee Meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:30 am, Thursday, October 22nd, at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Boulder. The a.m. session of the meeting is to discuss impacts on the work force. Terry encouraged Business owners to attend the am session. Commissioner Mullen shared that the BTAC presentation on reutilization concepts was to begin at 1:00pm.
3. Commissioner Kirsch shared that Tim Norbeck would be presenting the concepts to the MDC Closure committee on behalf of the group, but all were encouraged to attend the October 22nd meeting.
4. The group opened the floor to concepts for reutilization. The discussion was very productive, and the group was in agreement that the top priority for the facility should be to remain in operation in its current function, even if modified, as this would create the least amount of disruption to the community. The group discussed adding services or re-instating services that were once performed at the facility to make the facility accessible to a broader population. The possibility of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) High School campus was discussed as an option. Tim Norbeck explained more about STEM, and how education is shifting in this direction as future generations are guaranteed to be developing in a more and more technological world. The group expressed it would be great to have the first STEM school in Montana in Boulder. The group agreed this option would hold the second slot in the presentation to the closure committee.
A DOC (Department of Corrections) facility was also discussed to include minimum security options with job training, youth offender options with an education component, or a geriatric correctional facility. Members of the group agreed it was a viable option as long as it did not require any use of Boulder assets. The group agreed this option would hold the third slot in the presentation to the closure committee.
Other options discussed were agreed upon in this order. The fourth option was to look at a Veteran's Home since it has been stalled in Butte. The fifth option was a Law Enforcement Academy. The sixth option was a training/educational facility to meet multiple audiences. The final option was to look at private industry.
5. Other Items: Cory K shared that Rodger Johnson would be joining the committee as the retired MDC representative. An audience member suggested a Tour of the facility should be scheduled for committee members. Commissioner Leonard Wortman encouraged the group to continue to be at the forefront of the conversations with the closure committee and to continue to push for the best possible outcome for the community. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am. The next meeting was scheduled for November 5th at 8am at Boulder Town Hall.