



Innovation in State-Operated Facilities

Transforming Service Delivery

Iowa's State-Operated Specialty Care is focusing on the "specialty care" aspect of services, reaching beyond the brick and mortar of the facilities themselves.

The specialty care transition includes:

- Implementation of the Woodward Resource Center (WRC) Center of Excellence (CoE).
- Transition teams at all facilities to assist with the warm handoff transition for long-term clients in an effort to reduce readmission, recidivism (reoffending) and open appropriate bed space.
- External facility reviews and audits for quality control and client safety.

Woodward Resource Center (WRC) Center of Excellence (CoE)

Phase 1: GRC Transition Monitoring

Post Move Monitoring continues for Glenwood Resource Center (GRC) clients.

Phase 2: Consultation Services

Outreach Team is in place and operating out of WRC.

Phase 3: Crisis Stabilization & Assessment

Crisis assessment and stabilization work continues as facility lowers census this FY with the goal of opening crisis/stabilization bed availability in FY26.

Success Story: The WRC CoE Outreach Team was notified that an individual had swelling in their knee and had difficulty moving. The individual had two previous appointments with their primary care provider (PCP) to address concerns with no solution. The WRC CoE Outreach Team Physical Therapist (PT) attended the third appointment and was able to collaborate with the PCP by offering expertise and advocating for additional x-rays which identified a fracture. The individual was able to get the surgery they needed in a timely manner. When they returned home, the WRC CoE Outreach Team helped get equipment, training to provider staff and other necessary supports in place.

Glenwood Resource Center (GRC) Closure

Glenwood Resource Center ceased client care-based operations on June 18, 2024.

GRC Client Care Transitions

HCBS community homes	82
Woodward Resource Center (WRC)	27
Host homes	16
Intermediate Care Facilities for Intellectually Disabled (ICF/ID)	9
Hospice	7
Nursing facilities	6
Total	147

Transition Success Stories:

- Two individuals were able to go on vacation with their host home provider.
- An individual living in a host home was able to have a dog.
- This summer an individual living in a host home hosted a summer barbeque for all the host homes in the Glenwood area.
- An individual participated in an annual trunk or treat event in town with around 1,000 people in attendance.
- An individual attended a “Friendsgiving” with nearby host homes.

GRC Campus Next Steps



Vehicle and equipment handling is underway

- Redistribution within HHS
- Sell to other agencies and general public



Limited staffing on campus to facilitate basic operations (e.g., grounds maintenance, power plant)



Expected transition of the facility and grounds to Glenwood community group in Spring/Summer 2025

Mental Health Institute (MHI) Specialization

Cherokee MHI (Adults)

- Increase in admissions
- Referral to admission timeframe at 15.4 days
- Wait list stands at 4 (as of 12/11/24)
- Working to hire a psychologist to assist in restorative work and programming so as to decrease/maintain wait list and average length of stay
- Average length of stay was 52 days

Independence MHI (Youth)

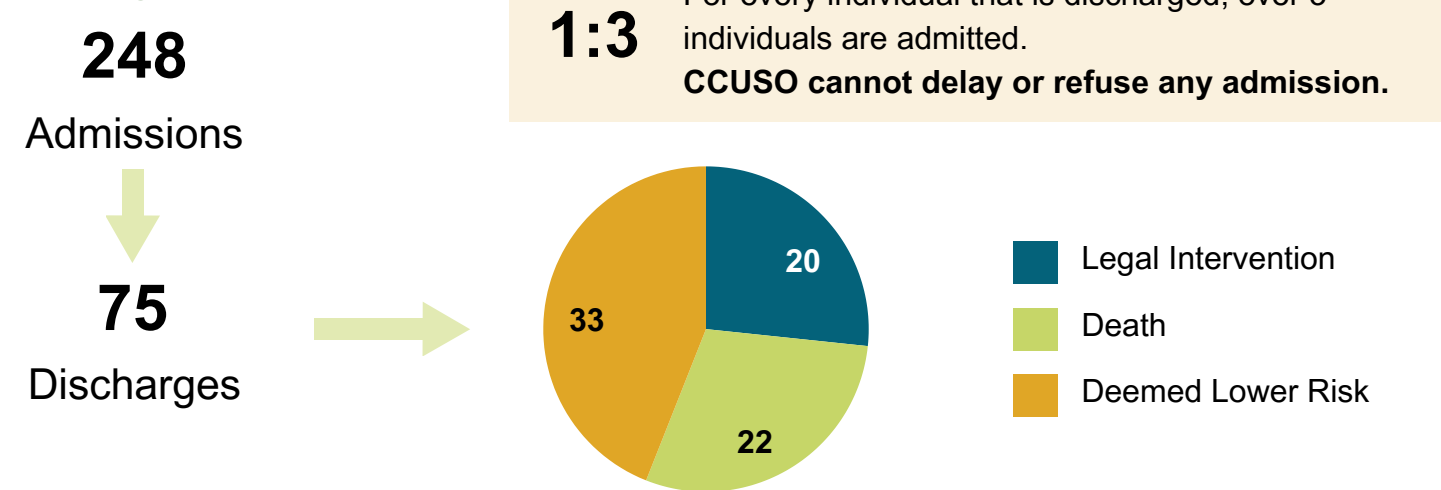
- Increase in admissions
- Added 8 youth beds
- 36 total beds
- Typically no wait list
- Implementation of a behavior management and incentive program to address acuity and psychiatric/behavioral needs

The MHI data reflects FY24.

Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO)

CCUSO began operation on April 21, 1999, as Iowa’s sole civil commitment program for sexually violent predators. In order to be committed an individual must be nearing completion of the criminal sentence for a “sexually motivated offense” and meet statutory criteria for a sexually violent predator (mental abnormality or personality disorder). The individual is reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team with expert evaluations on behalf of the individual and the state. The prosecutor’s review committee reviews to determine probable cause before a bench or jury trial, and subsequent order. The length of commitment depends solely on the individual’s completion of the treatment program requirements.

Growing Population



	Current Capacity	Census as of 12/11/24*
Secure/committed beds	144	144
Transitional Release Program beds	22	14
Total	166	158

*This does not account for:
13 returning from prison/jail | 5 pending trial decisions | 10 pending trials | 3 trials awaiting scheduling
| 3 Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) commitments in unknown status | 40 in investigative phase

Expansion Project

-  Voldeng building on the Cherokee MHI campus
-  \$8.9M in Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funds (RIIF)
-  Allows for up to 51 more beds
-  Estimated completion is Fall of 2025

- July 1, 2023**
Opened an expansion unit due to program growth and over crowding
- July 2024**
Additional expansion work began in a vacant building

State Training School for Boys (STS)

After a seven-year process, the State Training School for Boys (STS) has achieved substantial compliance with all provisions of its court-ordered remedial plan. The remedial plan focuses on treatment and skill development to improve quality of life and outcomes. The school now must maintain this compliance for a total of two years before the external oversight ceases.

November 2017

Litigation began alleging inadequate mental health care services, overreliance on isolation, and the improper use of restraints.

March 2020

A judgment against the school and State of Iowa was issued.

Spring 2020

STS routine oversight by a court-appointed monitor and subject matter expert began.

December 2024

HHS announced that the State Training School for Boys (STS) has achieved substantial compliance with all provisions of its court-ordered remedial plan.

STS has reshaped how staff interact with youth, motivating and managing their behavior, while maintaining safety and security paramount to the facility.

Now Youth Receive



Behavioral Health Assessments



24/7 crisis response



Care transition and re-entry services



Individualized interdisciplinary
behavioral healthcare



Evidence-based and trauma-informed
therapeutic and skills-based interventions



Health and
Human Services