

DOC HOUSING UNITS DESCRIPTIONS/ACRONYMS

Behavior Assessment Unit (BAU)

- Behavior Assessment Unit is a housing unit that is used for the assessment of incarcerated individuals who pose an unacceptable risk to the safety, security, and orderly operations of a correctional institution, have a possible personal safety need that needs to be investigated, or who pose a threat to others and require separation from general population. The goal of this unit is to expeditiously assess an individual's need(s) and determine if a structured program is recommended to address their need(s).

Secure Adjustment Unit (SAU)

- Secure Adjustment Unit is a structured program unit which provides access to cognitive behavioral treatment, education, programs, structured recreation, leisure time activities, and mental health services for those assessed as needing a specific structured program intervention for problematic behavior and to support positive adjustment in general population. An incarcerated individual may be classified (in accordance with *103 CMR 420, Classification*), from a BAU to an SAU, if a structured program intervention is recommended to address their needs and risk factors. All SAU's follow a graduated phase system designed to encourage maximum participation, and each incarcerated individual will have the opportunity to collaborate on the creation of an individual program plan to identify programmatic goals and guide their participation while in the SAU.

Special Housing Unit (SHU)

- For those incarcerated individuals housed outside of general population due to clinical needs, structured program intervention needs, or protective custody status, a variety of academic, technology, and vocational programs are supplied. An individual may be transferred to a SHU after a finding by the commissioner (or his designee) that the individual cannot be safely placed in the general population of any state correctional facility.

Protective Custody Unit (PCU)

- Also referred to as a Special Housing Unit (SHU), it is a form of separation from the general population for incarcerated individuals who have been found to require protection from other incarcerated individuals for reasons of health or safety and who cannot safely be housed in general population in a correctional facility commensurate with the incarcerated individual's custody level. Individuals residing in a PCU shall be provided with the opportunity to engage in meaningful activities commensurate to general

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population. Meaningful activity is defined as activity calculated to provide individuals with the opportunity to participate in educational, religious, work/vocational, or recreational pursuits.

Secure Treatment Program (STP)

- Specialized, maximum-security unit for incarcerated individuals with serious mental illnesses who can't function in general population, focusing on intensive, evidence-based psychiatric care, cognitive behavioral therapy, and behavioral interventions to manage severe symptoms and promote pro-social skills. This program aims to provide structured, therapeutic environments using interdisciplinary teams for incarcerated individuals with severe issues with impulse control and adjustment. The goal is to gain insight into one's mental illness and problematic behavior, and to help develop coping skills and behavioral stability sufficient to return safely to general population.

Secure Treatment Unit (STU)

- Maximum security residential treatment program that is designed for incarcerated individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness in accordance with clinical standards adopted by the Department. All persons referred to and placed in an STU have an individualized referral and treatment plan which outlines priorities in mental health treatment and goals for graduation/discharge from the program.

Residential Treatment Unit (RTU)

- General population housing unit that provides an intermediate level of care for incarcerated individuals whose mental illness, combined with significantly impaired social skills and limited ability to participate independently in activities of daily living, makes it difficult for them to function in the general population of a correctional institution, but who are not so impaired as to require psychiatric hospitalization. Additionally, the RTU serves as a transitional level of care for incarcerated individuals discharged from higher levels of care.

Correctional Recovery Academy (CRA)

- Correctional Recovery Academy is an intensive 6-month educational program that targets relapse prevention and cognitive behavioral treatment. The program utilizes rolling

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admissions and combines the elements of a therapeutic community's social learning approach with an advanced cognitive behavioral curriculum.

Nursing Care Unit (NCU)

- The Department maintains an NCU at MCI Shirley (up to 33 beds), that provides care to incarcerated individuals who do not require the full level of services provided at the infirmaries, but who do require long term, supportive care for conditions including, but not limited to: dementia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and neurological conditions.

Clinical Stabilization Unit (CSU)

- The Department operates CSUs at MCI Shirley (13 beds) and MCI Norfolk (16 beds). Incarcerated individuals placed in the CSU require assistance with activities of daily living and may require outpatient level of nursing services in addition to Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) services.

Reentry Unit

- The Reentry Unit is a residential program for maximum security incarcerated individuals who are 18 months to release from custody. This unit is designed to prepare incarcerated individuals releasing from maximum security for a successful reintegration to the community, with the goal of reducing recidivism. The program's main goal is for participants to learn effective, real-life ways to be successful in their recovery and reintegrate back into society while living a life free of crime and substances.

Intensive Stabilization Unit (ISU)

- Specialized treatment unit, located at the Old Colony Correctional Center (OCCC), for temporary clinical placement in a therapeutic milieu that provides treatment services and a structured environment of care for incarcerated individuals unable to effectively progress with placement on therapeutic supervision or assigned housing due to acute mental health or behavioral dysregulation, but do not meet criteria for transfer to an inpatient psychiatric setting. The goal of ISU placement is to identify and implement treatment plans effective in addressing the acute and ongoing clinical needs of incarcerated individuals in a manner that supports their placement in a non-ISU environment. As such, ISU placement also may be utilized as a clinical intervention for

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incarcerated individuals returning from an inpatient psychiatric setting as determined clinically indicated to support their placement in a non-ISU setting.

Intensive Stabilization and Observation Unit (ISOU)

- Specialized treatment unit, located at the Old Colony Correctional Center (OCCC), designed for incarcerated individuals experiencing severe mental health crises, providing intensive treatment and observation beyond standard mental health watch, to prevent irreversible deterioration when incarcerated individuals don't meet criteria for full hospitalization but need close monitoring and stabilization.

Building Responsible Adults through Validation and Education (B.R.A.V.E.) Unit

- Emerging adult program opened in August of 2021, and currently operating at NCCI Gardner, since MCI Concord's closure. This is a housing unit designed to support young men by providing a safe and supportive environment that is geared to their age specific needs. Any young man who is classified to medium custody between the ages of 18-26 with at least two years left on their sentence are eligible to apply for this opportunity. The community is the driver of this program and is supported by 5 mentors who also live on the unit. Staff, officers, and programming are a critical part of the unit intervention taking on non-traditional roles in assisting these young men through this significant developmental period in their life.

Progressing Every Day and Changing in Every Way (P.E.A.C.E.) Program

- Specialized and innovative emerging adult program for incarcerated individuals between the ages of 18 and 29 years old at MCI Framingham. The program is designed to advance rehabilitation and promote successful community reentry by supporting incarcerated women with essential skill development and transformative mentoring. The unit offers dedicated community-oriented space that encourages self-sufficiency, enhances practical life skills, fosters the development of parenting skills, and strengthens bonds between incarcerated mothers and their children. Incarcerated individuals participated in creating the program's design, physical space, and framework. Everything in the program works toward strengthening skills that are necessary for success within the program, and in the community to which the participants return.
- Incarcerated individual mentors will play an integral part in the community by supporting members, organizing book clubs, and developing team-building activities. Mentors are required to act as role models for the community and will guide participants to eventually become future mentors.