

Inmate Transfer Options Outside the Interstate Corrections Compact

Included in the Department of Corrections' (SCDC) May 24, 2019 letter to the House Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC). This information was provided in response to following question in LOC's May 16, 2019 letter to the Department of Corrections: "17. Please provide a brief summary of any inmate transfer options, outside of the ICC, the agency has considered or utilized in the last three years. In the summary of each option, include why the agency has considered/used that option instead of ICC as well as differences in the option and ICC (e.g., per day costs of inmates, inmate work/education/programming tracked, speed in which inmates can be transferred)."

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The SCDC office of Deputy Director of Operations began discussing use of private prisons to house inmates affiliated with security threat groups or those involved in disruptive behavior. On May 1, 2018, after the disturbance at Lee CI, SCDC began to seriously review options to transfer inmates out of state. The use of private prisons was the option explored. SCDC solicited pricing from three private prison entities (Core Civic, MTC, and GEO). Core Civic was selected and on 6/15/2018 the contract was signed. On 6/19/2018 and 6/21/2018, 48 inmates were transferred to Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility in Tutwiler, MS. The facility is PREA compliant based on their last PREA audit. Additionally, the institution is ACA accredited.

The agency utilized this option based on the fact that Core Civic could accommodate all 48 inmates immediately. The Interstate Corrections Compact was not considered given the volume of inmates involved and the speed at which they could be transferred.

Core Civic - \$70 per day, per inmate.

Core Civic provides a progress report every 6 months giving a summary of each inmate's adjustment since the last report, including custody status, program participation, disciplinary history, job assignment, education assignment, and security threat group (STG) affiliation.

SCDC contracts with Wellpath. This is a contract facility, which includes its own medical, mental health and security staffing. It is located in Columbia, SC and also contracts nationally with other states, the BOP, Federal Marshalls, ICE, SCDMH, and potentially others. SCDC's current contract includes up to 10 mental health beds for the most difficult to handle individuals with acute mental health needs, particularly those with significant self-injurious behavior (males or females) in need of frequent off-site emergency management when housed within SCDC, and/or our acute seriously mentally ill females as the SCDC has no female inpatient capacity. Gilliam Psychiatric Hospital (GPH) is a male facility only, located within the confines of Kirkland CI and there is no female alternative at Camille Graham for females.

Also, SCDC houses individuals with subacute medical needs at this facility that are beyond the level of care of the SCDC but who do NOT require acute care hospitalization. Particularly, male or female inmates in need of post stroke rehabilitation will be managed at this facility as SCDC does not have these services on-site within its facilities nor does SCDC have a female subacute infirmary at Camille Graham as we do for males at Kirkland CI. As such, this is a much less expensive alternative than continued inpatient hospitalization.