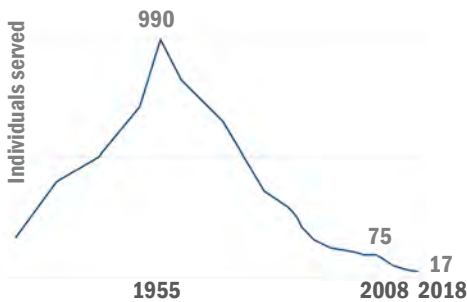


Southwest Idaho Treatment Center Report Highlights

January 2019

The Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC) is a vestige of an old treatment model that is no longer tenable. Its population is too small to provide a variety of needed expertise and its setting does not replicate community living.

SWITC has transformed from a long-term home for almost 1,000 to a place of rehabilitation for less than 20.



SWITC displays symptoms of organizational trauma, triggered by a haphazard downsizing process and a series of recent traumatic events.

1 in 10

Workdays lost to injury in the first half of 2018.

Idaho's background check process does not prevent most people who abuse vulnerable adults from working as unlicensed caregivers of those vulnerable adults.

SWITC is Idaho's only state-operated institution dedicated to serving individuals with an intellectual disability. Many at SWITC have mental illnesses, complex medical or behavioral issues, and histories of violence or involvement in the criminal justice system.



Recommendations

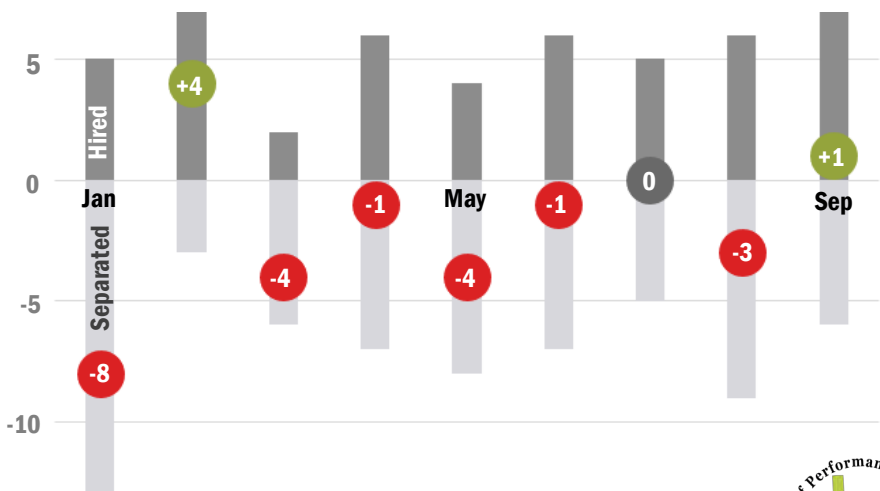
The Legislature should direct the Department of Health and Welfare to develop a long-term vision for Idaho's system of crisis care and should give policy guidance for this vision.

Idaho has focused on getting individuals services in the community, with little planning for how to serve those who continue to need care in an institution. SWITC has radically downsized over the past several decades. Downsizing is necessarily difficult, but struggles were exacerbated by neglect from the department and the loss of institutional knowledge.

The department should develop a strategic plan and a formal quality improvement process at SWITC.

SWITC has not had an effective approach to solving problems. Staff go from crisis to crisis while serious organizational issues exist and persist, such as an overly reactive approach to treatment, staff trauma and injury, and continued understaffing. The department needs a formal plan to address these issues.

SWITC lost more employees than it hired in six of the first nine months of 2018.



View the report:
www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/

