



# Southwest Idaho Treatment Center

July 2018

## Background

The Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC) has been in transition over the past decade. Previously known as the Idaho State School and Hospital, it had been a long-term care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities. In 2009, the Legislature changed the center's mission to short-term stabilization and crisis care.

With its new mission, the center's organization changed. Long-term residents were transitioned to the community. From July 2009 to April 2018, the number of residents declined from 95 to 23. Full-time equivalent positions declined from 375 to 131. The center's annual budget went from \$23.4 million to \$11.1 million. In 2017, the Legislature authorized the addition of a state-licensed secure treatment facility.

After organizational changes, the Division of Licensing and Certification found problems at the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center. A 2017 survey identified deficiencies in the center's governance and management. After the survey, newspapers reported on legal and staffing concerns and on instances of abuse and neglect.

During the 2018 legislative session, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee approved a request to evaluate the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center. The request asked us to look at the center's external oversight and its internal management and operations.

## Scope

**External oversight.** We will describe governance and accountability external to the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center and evaluate the following:

- Mechanisms that ensure the independence of the Division of Licensing and Certification to survey a facility managed by the same department

- Certification or licensing options that may be appropriate for the center's new mission

- Information available to potential employers about abuse or neglect by direct care staff

**Internal management and operations.** We will evaluate whether practices align with best treatment standards. We will identify causes of any deviations and strategies for improvement in areas such as:

- Management practices and staff oversight

- Staff mix, qualifications, workload, and training

- Development, supervision, and implementation of individual treatment plans

We will consult treatment standards developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Needs (NADD).

**Projected completion: 2019 legislative session**