

Executive Summary for the new revised Program of Requirements

The Diversion Center (“the Center”) is a facility that will provide an alternative to incarceration for individuals (“Clients”) ages 18+ who have committed a minor, non-violent offense and are experiencing a behavioral health-related issue, as well as those whose needs are not met at local hospitals. Clients experiencing such behavioral health-related issues will be brought to the Center by public safety personnel and must be amenable to treatment services in lieu of facing criminal charges, or instead of going to an emergency department. Once in the Diversion Center, Clients will be able to access treatment for a variety of behavioral health conditions such as mental illness, substance use disorder and other types of conditions.

Programmed length of stay in this 24/7 facility ranges from a few hours to three days depending on the level of Client needs. Should a Client who was brought to the center by police officers refuse to receive help after the admission and before completion of the services offered at the facility, they will be transferred to the Detention Center and charges will be placed consistent with their original unlawful conduct. Due to the high demand for services, the Center will not accept or receive any community referrals or walk-ins.

The Center will accept Clients referred from the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services (MCFRS), Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DOCR), and hospitals. This will help to reduce the avoidable use of emergency rooms, hospitalization, and incarceration, and will provide immediate, clinically appropriate help to Clients in a therapeutic environment.

The Center will be an independent entity from the Detention Center and will be operated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or a DHHS contractor. The stand-alone facility will be located near the existing Detention Center with an entrance off Seven Locks Road. The building will be designed to portray a professional health center and will depict a residential character. A single point of entry to the Diversion Center will be a vehicular sally-port, which will be used by public safety personnel to bring individuals to the Diversion Center. The Center will be designed with appropriate landscaping and visual barriers. Although the Center will not generate unusual noise such as fire stations or trucking, etc., careful design will protect the community against potential noise from facility operations. Equal attention will be given to site lighting to avoid a negative impact on nearby residences. The physical location and other design elements of the project will make it act as a sound barrier between the community and interstate 270.

This project will include several phases until it is opened for operation:

Phase 1: To generate a concept design that shows the location of the building on the site and potential site features such as landscaping, lighting, fencing, and vehicular access including layout of the floor of the center.

Phase 2: To develop the structural system and appearance of the building including finishes and materials.

Phase 3: To obtain permits and bid the project for a potential construction contractor.

Phase 4: Construction of the Center leading to the opening of the center.

The community, inclusive of the neighborhood and individuals with lived experience of behavioral health crisis services, will be informed of and engaged in the project throughout the design process. The County will facilitate community engagement through public design presentations and a project webpage on the County DGS “neighborhood projects” website [Neighborhood Projects \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/neighborhood-projects).

More detailed information about the spaces inside the center and other aspects of the project leading to start of the design are included in this Program Of Requirements (POR).



7.20.2023

Diversion Center Project Update

What We Will Cover

- Diversion Center Project Status Update
- What is this Project and What isn't it
- Seven Locks Site Map
- Design Flexibility and Decisions
- Program of Requirements (POR) Update
- Creation of Stakeholder Engagement Team

What We Will Not Cover

- We will not try to sell you on a need for additional mental health services in the County.
- We will not discuss the need to divert mental health patients from our hospital emergency departments.
- We will not use the Newark restoration center to describe the design of the Montgomery County diversion center.

The “Parking Lot”

- We will not be able to answer every design question today.
- Issues that need community input will be added to the “Parking Lot” that will be future points of discussion for the stakeholder engagement team (details on a future slide).

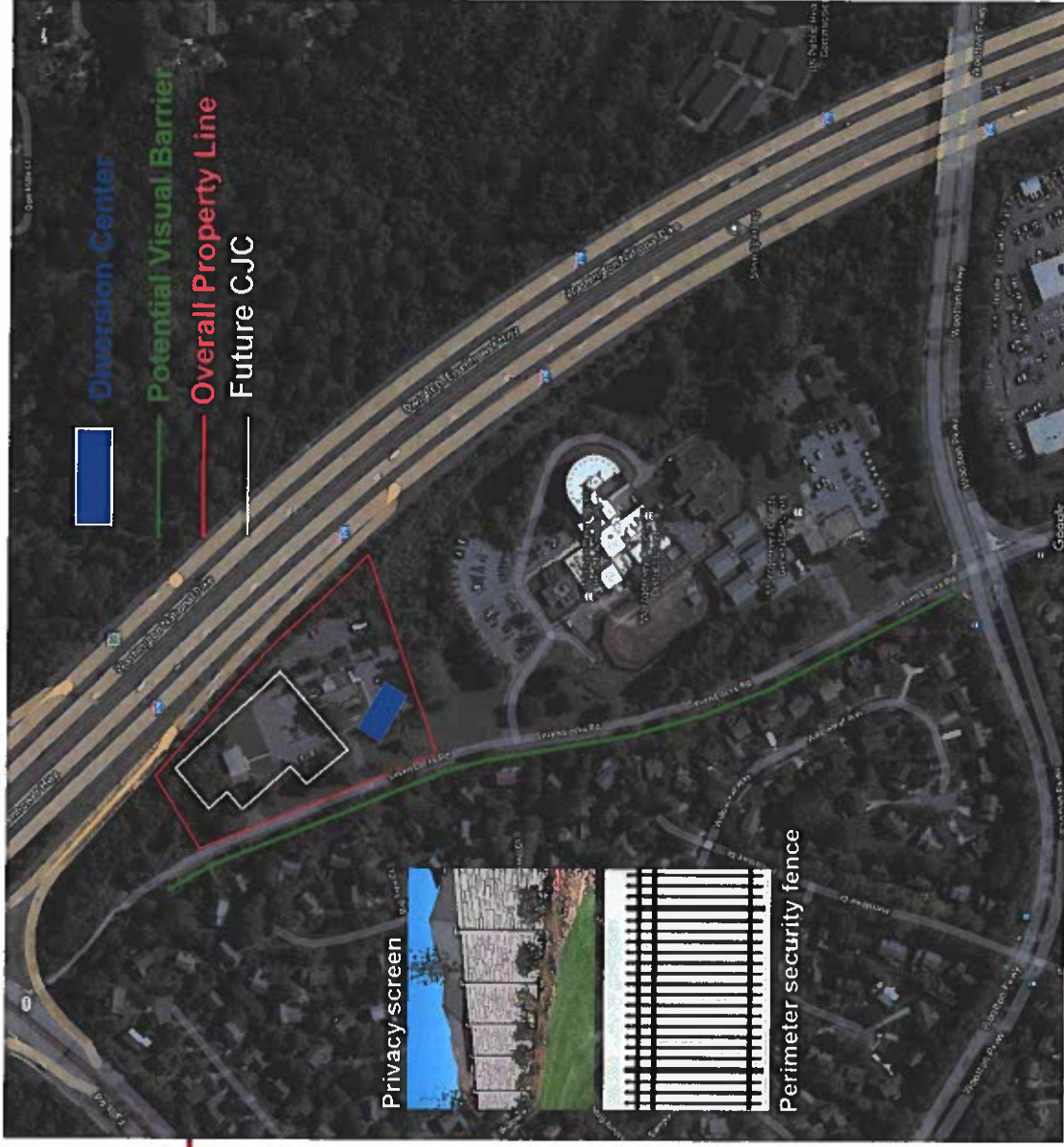
Diversion Center Project Status Update

- Small Group Meeting held on May 3 with City of Rockville and Alliance members.
- Focus on cleaning up the consistency of how we describe this facility and the problem it is intended to solve.
- Ensuring that all documents and websites are consistent with this vision.
- Establishing a mechanism to incorporate community feedback in the design process, including elements that would improve the neighborhood experience with the site.
- County will also be sharing an update at the Rockville City Council meeting on August 7.

	Restoration Center	Diversion Center
Hours of Operation	24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year	24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year
Purpose	Provide integrated care for adults and children with mental health conditions and/or addiction.	Decompression & diversion via short-term crisis stabilization services, then referral to community-based resources
Target Population(s)	County residents experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis	County residents ages 18+ experiencing mental health and/or substance use crisis who have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferred after release from Montgomery County Detention Center (MCDC) • Transported by public safety responders • Transferred and transported from a hospital via ambulance
Accessibility	Open to the general public, “no wrong door” policy	Open to county residents transported by MCPD, MCFRS, DOCR, DHHS, or hospitals

	Restoration Center	Diversion Center
Exclusion Criteria	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-ins • Referrals from community-based behavioral health organizations • Non-county residents • Children/adolescents
Location	Geographic areas with greatest unmet need; highest number of crisis events (e.g., “hot spots”)	Centralized in the County with proximity to the MCDC/Central Processing Unit (CPU) to effectively divert prior to entry into the criminal justice system
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term behavioral health crisis stabilization • May include supported housing, residential and employment programs for walk-in clients • Discharge planning and referrals to community-based resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term behavioral health crisis stabilization for eligible clients • Discharge planning, referrals, & transportation to community-based resources

Seven Locks Site Map



Program of Requirements (POR) Update

- A Program of Requirements is the core initial design document that spells out the intent of the facility, establishes key elements of the service delivery at the site, and the required spatial relationships between those elements.
- The POR for the “Restoration Center” was completed in April 2022.
- The County is updating the POR to reflect the intent to operate the facility as a “Diversion Center”.
- The Executive Summary of the POR has been updated and the remainder of the document is being reviewed for consistency with that overarching summary.
- The County has committed to sharing that POR with the City as it is being updated.
- The project webpage will be updated to reflect this clean-up after it is approved.

Creation of Stakeholder Engagement Team

- Smaller stakeholder team that can bring forward multiple perspectives to work through and propose solutions to meet the community need.
- Proposed Composition:
 - 2 members of neighboring community (Seven Locks Alliance)
 - 2 members of the recovery community (NAMI & STEER)
 - 1 member from the Department of Health & Human Services
 - 1 member from the Department of General Services
 - 1 member from the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation
 - ACAO Stoddard
- Ad hoc participants from the Police Department, Fire Rescue Service, the architectural firm & others as deemed necessary by the Team.
- Requesting member identification by August 15. Team will begin meeting in early September.

Questions?