

Solitary Confinement Transformation Project

What's the Vision?

Working with staff, incarcerated individuals and stakeholders for humane corrections by safely increasing meaningful time out of cell.

Key Definitions

Restrictive Housing is a housing assignment for individuals whose presence in the general population is deemed to present a danger to self, others or facility security.

The Washington State Department of Corrections aspires to measure and define **Solitary Confinement** as an operational status in restrictive housing where the individual is confined to a single-occupancy cell for **more than 20 hours** a day without meaningful contact, out-of-cell activities or opportunities to congregate.

The American Correctional Association and the United Nations define Restrictive Housing and Solitary Confinement as **22 or more hours** per day.

What's in it for you?

Creating safer prisons benefits everyone who lives and works within them. By working to proactively address the risk and needs of incarcerated individuals, and by responding in a way that addresses the issues underlying violence, we can create environments inside prisons that enhance safety, support prosocial behavior and effectively prepare people for success after release.

Want to Learn More?

- Visit doc.wa.gov/SCTP
- Visit doc.wa.gov/SCTP-FAQs
- Email docsctp@doc1.wa.gov



What's New at Stafford Creek?

Improved Staffing in IMU

- Two additional correctional officer posts
- One additional investigator focused on restrictive housing cases
- One additional office assistant focused on tracking time out of cell

Expanded Out-of-Cell Opportunities

- Stress and anger management program
- Redemption class
- Mainline
- Movie opportunities
- Implement new yard and shower rotation that allows for two hours out of cell per day
- Eight additional programming chairs to safely support congregate out-of-cell time (coming soon)



What's Not Changing?

- The use of restrictive housing as a tool to maintain facility safety
- The process and policies for referring incarcerated individuals to administrative segregation and maximum custody

What to Expect Next?

- Project meetings and newsletters will communicate timeline, progress and future plans
- The project team will request input and feedback from selected facilities for future planning

Pilot Project Overview

In 2023, the department committed to reducing solitary confinement over the next five years. Partial funding was secured which allowed for a pilot project (proof of concept) to demonstrate the potential impact of full funding.

Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) was chosen as the facility to implement the project along with the statewide population of incarcerated individuals living with serious mental illness.

The pilot project integrates the requirements from the SCTP plan, and the results will be presented at the next legislative session to secure additional funding. SCTP is supporting the Washington Way to apply its correctional culture principles, using all available resources to achieve DOC's goals.

Key Definitions

Scheduled, Offered, Accepted, Received (SOAR)

A framework to assess a facility's ability to schedule time out-of-cell, track the amount of scheduled time offered, note when and why time may not have been offered, and monitor how often individuals accept and receive the time that was scheduled and offered. This model places accountability on the facility and the incarcerated individual.

Sequential Intercept Model for Prisons (SIM-P)

A surveillance and communication tool that identifies facility-specific opportunities, gaps, dispositional options and interdisciplinary communication, serving as a living reference tool for process improvement.

Fun Activities and Social Time (FAST)

SCCC IMU staff surveyed the incarcerated population and identified opportunities for prosocial leisure activities outside of the cell, including movies, games and meals.

Timeline

Summer 2024

- Developed SOAR
- Increased time out of cell through operational changes
- Launched SCTP pilot project at SCCC
- Held first SIM-P mapping workshop
- Reconstituted RTU working group focused on deflection and diversion from solitary confinement
- Onboarded new staff at SCCC
- Implemented new IMU yard and shower rotation
- Began out-of-cell congregate meals
- Began conducting FAST
- Developed new pod proposal

Fall/Winter 2024

- Second SIM-P mapping workshop
- Submit Decision Package to legislature
- Continue enhanced programming efforts
- Continue assessing SOAR data
- Legislative correspondence

Spring 2025

- Receive direction from legislature
- Produce final report, appendix to SCTP Plan (Oct. 2023)

Staff Engagement Efforts

Kick Off

- Provided project and proof of concept overview
- Defined project timeline and impacts

SCCC Town Halls

- Spread vision and mission to staff
- Empowered facility leadership to guide SCCC through the proof of concept

Impact Assessments

- Evaluated all implemented requirements and identified impacts on stakeholders
- Produced a heatmap developed from the stakeholder group interviews

Focus Groups

- Engaged in discussions with staff including perceptions and barriers for planning insight
- Continued to move staff along the change curve