

2025 Adams County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

JOHN ALBRIGHT, CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE AND INNOVATION
TIFFANY GHOLSON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF
PROGRAMS

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Executive Summary

The Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) conducted an annual inspection of the Adams County Juvenile Detention Center on September 11, 2025, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The sections and specific requirements of 20 Ill. Adm. Code 2602, County Juvenile Detention Standards, ("County Detention Standards") noted as non-compliant are listed in the table below, while specific observations are noted in the sections that follow. Each section of the report also includes policy and practice recommendations to either gain compliance or move towards best practices. Those are combined in a second table at the end of the report.

Areas of Non-Compliance

Section	Requirement
2602.170 Discipline	Room confinement may be used only as a temporary response to behavior that threatens the safety of the youth and others. Room confinement shall not be used for a fixed period of time, but only until the youth is calm enough to rejoin programming without being a risk to the safety of others. At no time should room confinement exceed 4 hours without administrators and/or mental health staff developing an individualized plan to address the behavior.
2602.30 Personnel	A shift supervisor must be scheduled and available at all times and on duty during all waking hours and immediately available if not on duty during sleeping hours.
2602.50 Admissions Procedures	An agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all of its facilities.
2602.90 Mental Health Services	All facilities shall employ or contract with qualified mental health professionals to address the needs of youth identified in the mental health screening, as well as needs that arise during the period of confinement. Services shall meet or exceed the community level of care.
2602.230 Education	Each facility must designate a qualified educational authority responsible for the development and implementation of the educational program. The educational authority must ensure that: The program complies with State and federal education standards. . . Teacher student ratios are at least 1:12 for general education and 1:8 for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

Methodology

- Interviews Conducted
 - Superintendent
 - Director
 - Detention Officers (2)
 - Detention Officer Supervisors (2)

- Youth (5)
- Health Department Nurse
- Educator
- Mental Health Professionals (2)
- Documents Reviewed
 - Sample Youth Files
 - Medication Logs
 - Youth Confinement Records
 - Resident Orientation Handbook
 - Behavior Management Program Training Manual
 - Public Health Inspection Report (6/10/24)
 - Dietary Menu with Caloric Count
 - Educator Credentials
 - Sample Incident Reports
 - Programming, Recreation, and Education Schedules
 - Residence Grievance Log
 - Sample Youth Grievances
 - Sample Administrative Intervention (AI) Plan

Overview

The Adams County Juvenile Detention Center is a 32-bed facility in Quincy, Illinois. The primary programming space is a multi-purpose area outside of the main control room. The facility has three classrooms, a gymnasium, and an outdoor recreation space. There are three living units, referred to as Blue Unit, Red Unit, and Green Unit, however only two of the living units were in use at the time of the inspection due to the low population numbers at the facility.

The on-site portion of the review took place on September 11, 2025. At the time of the audit, the facility had 11 residents, employing two supervisors and 15 Detention Officers (one of which was away on military leave). Efforts are being made to hire additional supervisors, as the current staffing is insufficient to cover all waking hour shifts in each week. There are shifts during the week where a supervisor is not present. In these instances, the most senior Detention Officer is in charge of the shift. County Detention Standards require that a shift supervisor be scheduled and available during all youth waking hours. Youth, staff, and administrators also report youth confinements being utilized due to short staffing approximately 2-3 times per week. This does represent an improvement from previous inspections where confinements were utilized almost daily due to staffing shortages. Facility administrators report the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) has authorized six additional positions starting on January 1, 2026, including four Detention Officers, a Training Coordinator, and a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator. The addition of these positions will be critical for continued staffing improvements at the facility.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.30 Personnel states: “A shift supervisor must be scheduled and available at all times and on duty during all waking hours and immediately available if not on duty during sleeping hours.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Budget for and hire more supervisory staff to ensure adequate coverage is maintained.

Admission Policy and Procedures

The Adams County Juvenile Detention Center offers 24-hour coverage for admissions. The facility has ended the practice of conducting strip searches upon intake; only using such searches in the event there is suspicion that the youth is in possession of contraband.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requirements include an assessment to determine risk for victimization within 72 hours of each youth’s admission and periodically throughout a youth’s confinement. Inspection reports from 2022 – 2024 found the facility had not implemented such a process. The facility did start to do so in early 2025. All youth files that were reviewed contained such an assessment, so this area is considered compliant at this time. Interviewed youth were familiar with PREA, some of whom indicated they learned about it via an orientation video upon arrival. The facility has not had a formal PREA audit conducted.

Areas of Non-compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.50 Admissions Procedures states: “An agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all of its facilities.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Hire a PREA Officer to supervise facility compliance with PREA standards.
 - Pursue a formal PREA audit.

Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement

In 2019, the facility took steps to implement a cognitive-based programming model with the assistance of external consultants. The program includes a token economy system in which youth earn points throughout the day that are converted into a three-tiered level system with graduating incentives. The facility also utilizes immediate reinforcements to recognize youth for positive behavior. Youth can use these “tokens” to make purchases from the commissary system, which mostly contains snacks and hygiene products. Detention officers facilitate daily cognitive-behavioral focus groups which have been held with much more consistency than previous inspections. Interviewed youth affirmed these groups occur daily and completed programming materials were observed in youth files.

The facility utilizes a timeout system to address inappropriate behavior, with timeouts ranging from 5-15 minutes on average. Youth who exhibit egregious behaviors are assigned an Administrative Intervention (AI) Plan and separated from the main group during the plan (although youth do continue to attend school with other youth). There have been improvements to the AI Plan process over time, as the length

of time youth are on the plan has decreased quite a bit. Youth and staff report youth typically stay on that status for 2-3 days. There is still operationally driven confinement happening at the facility 2-3 times per week.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.170 Discipline states: “Room confinement may be used only as a temporary response to behavior that threatens the safety of the youth and others. Room confinement shall not be used for a fixed period of time, but only until the youth is calm enough to rejoin programming without being a risk to the safety of others. At no time should room confinement exceed 4 hours without administrators and/or mental health staff developing an individualized plan to address the behavior.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Continue efforts to hire enough staff to avoid the use of operational confinements.

Medical and Health Care

An Adams County Health Department nurse is on-site on most weekdays (an increase from only twice per week in 2024). The nurse conducts medical assessments for youth intakes, packages youth medication for administration by detention center employees, and responds to any sick calls. A Nurse Practitioner is on call 24- hours per day. The youth medication distribution process and documentation were clear and organized.

Mental Health Services

Mental health services are offered through both Transitions of Western Illinois as part of the MHJJ grant program and Clarity Healthcare. Transitions staff include a case manager who meets with youth on the MHJJ caseload and a licensed therapist who provides individual treatment. In previous inspections, two non-clinical, peer support employees from Transitions were on-site at the facility once per week for approximately 3-4 hours to meet with youth on the MHJJ caseload and check-in with others on request. The facility did not have any licensed Mental Health Professionals (MHPs) providing services to youth at the time of previous inspections. There is an MHP through Transitions providing individual services for youth referred by the MHJJ case manager. Additionally, Clarity Healthcare staff provides 10 hours of services per week, including weekly groups that follow the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Anger Management Curriculum. Clarity also provides substance abuse counseling in the community. Two youth were being transported for appointments at the time of the inspection. The MOU with Clarity was effective in late July, 2025.

The breadth of mental health services available to youth is an improvement on previous inspections. Health Services have only been in place for a short period of time, so portions of this section are still identified as non-compliant since they have not been in place for much of the review period. If improvements are maintained, however, the facility will move into compliance in this area during the next inspection.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.90 Mental Health Services states: “All facilities shall employ or contract with qualified mental health professionals to address the needs of youth identified in the mental health screening, as well as needs that arise during the period of confinement. Services shall meet or exceed the community level of care.”
 - Recommendations
 - Ensure all youth receive a mental health assessment upon admission.
 - Develop individual service plans for youth in need of services.

Youth Grievances

The 2024 Inspection Report found the facility had grievance forms available for youth; however, grievances are not being responded to appropriately. The facility is now maintaining a grievance log detailing grievance date, response, and response date. Interviewed youth were all familiar with the grievance process and affirmed administrators meet with them to address grievances. The facility is now compliant in this area.

Education

The facility has one full-time teacher that is an employee of Quincy Public School District #172 and an education liaison who manages youth enrollment. The school calendar matches the calendar of the Quincy School District, inclusive of summer school. Youth classwork is done almost exclusively through the Ingenuity Credit Recovery System. Youth can also work on schoolwork sent from their home schools.

The 2024 Inspection Report found that special education services continue to be monitored by a special education coordinator at the local high school, however the one educator at the facility is not a licensed special education teacher. This condition had not changed as of the date of the 2025 inspection. To come into compliance with County Detention Standards, the facility will have to hire or contract with a licensed special education teacher to provide services to youth.

The facility continues to be out of compliance with the requirement that the teacher student ratio for general education of youth be 1:12. Given the average number of youth at the facility, one teacher is insufficient to meet this standard. At least one additional teacher will need to be hired in order to move into compliance in this area.

While operationally driven confinements are still occurring at the facility, they are not interfering with the school day. Youth and staff affirmed that most of these occur during the evening shift and that school is occurring regularly as scheduled.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.230 Education states: “Each facility must designate a qualified educational authority responsible for the development and implementation of the educational program. The educational authority must ensure that: The program complies with State and federal education

standards. . . Teacher student ratios are at least 1:12 for general education and 1:8 for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)”.

- Recommendations:

- Hire a special education teacher to provide services to youth with IEPs.
- Hire an additional general education teacher to ensure the facility can maintain required ratios for educational services.

Recommendations

Section	Recommendations
Admissions Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire a PREA Officer to supervise facility compliance with PREA standards.• Pursue a formal PREA audit.
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget for and hire more supervisory staff to ensure adequate coverage is maintained.
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue efforts to hire enough staff to avoid the use of operational confinements.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire a special education teacher to provide services to youth with IEPs.• Hire an additional general education teacher to ensure the facility can maintain required ratios for educational services.
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure all youth receive a mental health assessment upon admission.• Develop individual service plans for youth in need of services.