

# 2025 Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

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## **Executive Summary**

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted an annual inspection of the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center on October 1, 2025, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The facility has continued to make notable progress in the quality of youth programming at the facility and previous areas on non-compliance. Some areas of non-compliance do remain. The sections and specific requirements of the 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 following sections of this report. Each section of the report also includes policy and practice recommendations to either gain compliance or move towards best practice. Those recommendations are combined in a second table at the end of the report.

## **Areas of Non-Compliance**

| Section                        | Requirement  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2602.210 Visiting              | Visits shall be contact visits unless specific concerns preclude contact visits for identified individuals.  |
| 2602.230 Education             | The educational authority must ensure that: IEPs are in place for youth with special education status. Teachers shall follow the IEP and document the progress.  |
| 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. |

## **Methodology**

- Interviews Conducted
  - Superintendent
  - Director
  - Assistant Superintendent/Program Manager
  - Educators (2)
  - Supervisor
  - Youth (9)
  - Corrections Officers (2)
  - Nurse
  - Mental Health Practitioner
- Documents Reviewed
  - Sample Youth Files
  - Sample Incident Reports
  - Academic Schedule

- Administrative Intervention Policy
- Youth Confinement Records
- Sample Employee Background Checks
- Dietary Menu
- Educator Credentials
- Fire Inspection Report (8/21/24)
- Sample Employee CPR Certificates
- School Schedule
- Medical and Mental Health Licenses
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Policies
- Sample Employee Training Records
- Program Schedule
- Fire Drill Documentation
- Behavior Management Grading Criteria Handbook
- Resident Orientation Handbook
- Room Confinement Policy

### **Overview**

The Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center is a 40-bed facility with 2 close-observation rooms. The current rated capacity is 25 youth. There were 17 youth detained at the time of the inspection, which is a higher population than the facility average for most of the year. There have been some noticeable improvements to the physical plant in 2025, with new murals added to several walls throughout the year.

### **Personnel, Staffing and Supervision**

At the time of the audit, the facility employed 20 Detention Officers, 6 Assistant Superintendents that supervise shifts and have specialized roles, such as operations management and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) oversight. While staffing levels have been a struggle at times throughout the year, there have been significantly fewer impacts on youth programming than noted in previous reports.

### **Admission Policy and Procedures**

The facility has continued to make improvements towards compliance with the PREA-related portions of the County Detention Standards. All youth receive an assessment for risk of victimization upon intake. Interviewed youth were split in their knowledge of PREA, as some were familiar with it and others were not. The facility conducts orientation groups weekly, however there is no documentation of resident participation. It is recommended the facility implement a process to capture youth attestation upon receipt of the orientation. The Administrative Office of Illinois Courts has approved an additional PREA Coordinator position starting in 2026. In July 2024, a Metrasens contraband detector was purchased and placed into use during the intake process to produce a thorough search without subjecting youth to a strip search. A second Metrasens detector was purchased in 2025 for use on all other personnel entering the secure portion of the facility.

### Recommendations

- Contract with a third-party entity for youth to report abuse or harassment in a confidential manner.
- Complete a formal PREA audit.
- Document resident participation in PREA orientation.

### Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement

The facility has continued to improve the volume and quality of programming available to youth. A program called Street College (a music and podcasting program) is present twice per week for approximately two hours. The facility has a gardening program, and mindfulness programming through the Hope Program. Adjustments were made to the youth behavior program in 2024, with programming hours changed to remove any break periods, and all residents have the option to be involved in programming from 8:30am until 9:00pm. The facility also deployed tablets for residents to have daily calls with family members. These tablets also have the capability to make anonymous and confidential calls to the PREA reporting agency.

The facility has made significant improvements to the use of behaviorally driven confinement over the past several years. Room confinement is only used as a short-term intervention for youth while they are an active risk to themselves or others. Documentation, staff interviews, and youth interviews affirmed the policy is being followed as intended. The facility is now in compliance with the confinement portion of the County Detention Standards.

The facility offers family visitation; however, all visitation continues to be non-contact despite the County Detention Standard requirement for visitation to be contact. The facility did have the windows removed from two of the non-contact visitation areas, however this remains insufficient to meet the standard.

### Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.210 Visiting states: "Visits shall be contact visits unless specific concerns preclude contact visits for identified individuals."
  - Recommendations:
    - Permit youth to have contact visits with family unless specific concerns preclude contact visits for identified individuals.

### Youth Grievances

The facility has a youth grievance process in place. Youth were familiar with the process, and it is outlined in the Detainee Handbook. Grievance boxes have been placed in the common library area near the classrooms, dining room, and intake area. The facility maintains a log to retain copies of youth grievances.

### Medical and Health Care

Nursing coverage is provided via a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH). Nurses are on-site from 8am – 11am, 7 days per week, and on call 24 hours per day. A medical doctor is on-site once per week. Medical documentation had all required information, including the appropriate consents and referrals to the medical doctor and/or psychiatrist when needed. The facility has a method by which it monitors youth who are sick at the facility. Medication management was compliant with County Detention Standards.

### **Mental Health Services**

The facility entered a contract with ACH in April 2022 for mental health services coverage, which calls for 12 hours of mental health services per week (facility administrators can add hours on an as-needed basis). The MHP is typically on-site three days during the week and meets with new youth intakes to conduct a mental health screening. Youth are placed on a mental health “level” and a treatment plan is developed for youth assessed as needing more intensive services. The MHP also facilitates groups twice per week. The MHP shared that every effort is made to meet with all youth individually at least once per week. When the size of the youth population extremely high as it was on the date of the inspection, there are too many youth to do so. In order to effectively meet the needs of the population, more hours should be added to the contract.

### **Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations**

- Section 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
    - Increase the number of mental health hours provided to youth at the facility.

### **Education**

Facility educators are employees of the Regional Office of Education (ROE). At the time of the inspection there were 2 full-time educators employed, which is sufficient given the low population numbers at the facility. Classes run from 8:30am – 2:30pm consisting of six 45-minute class periods. The facility has largely managed to avoid school cancellations during the current school year, and youth were complimentary of the teachers and curriculum. Education is delivered via direct instruction; however, the facility is taking steps to implement some virtual education options through the Aameelio Learn platform. Classrooms were in good condition.

Since the 2023 Inspection, the ROE has assigned a staff member to obtain youth educational records from youth home schools. The ROE has access to youth IEPs which are shared with educators at the facility. There were five youth with IEPs at the time of the inspection, however neither educator has a special education endorsement.

### **Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations**

- 2602.230 Education states: “The educational authority must ensure that: IEPs are in place for youth with special education status. Teachers shall follow the IEP and document the progress.”
  - Recommendation:
    - Hire an additional certified special education teacher.

### **Recommendations**

| Section                            | Recommendations   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Admissions Policies and Procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract with a third-party entity for youth to report abuse or harassment in a confidential manner.</li> <li>• Complete a formal PREA audit.</li> <li>• Document resident participation in PREA orientation.</li> </ul> |
| Education                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire an additional certified special education teacher.</li> </ul>   |
| Mental Health Services             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of mental health hours provided to youth at the facility.</li> </ul>   |
| Visiting                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit youth to have contact visits with family unless specific concerns preclude contact visits for identified individuals.</li> </ul>  |