

2025 Kane County Juvenile Detention Inspection Report

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Executive Summary

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted its annual inspection of the Kane County Juvenile Detention Center on May 1, 2025, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The center was found to be fully compliant with the requirements of the 20 Ill. Adm. Code 2602, County Juvenile Detention Standards ("County Detention Standards"). Furthermore, many facility practices exceed County Detention Standards and are indicative of juvenile justice best practice.

Areas of Non-Compliance

None.

Methodology

- Interviews Conducted
 - Superintendent
 - Operations Manager
 - Mental Health Director
 - Supervisor (1)
 - Youth Counselors (5)
 - Nurse
 - Educators (2)
 - School Principal
 - MHP
 - Youth (6)
- Documents Reviewed
 - Use of Force Policy
 - Confinement Policy
 - Youth Confinement Records
 - Behavior Management Policy
 - Use of Restraints Policy
 - PREA Policies
 - Training and Development Policy
 - Sample Electronic Youth Files
 - Youth Grievance Policy
 - Youth Grievance Logs
 - Resident Handbook
 - Sample Employee Training Records
 - Employee Background Check Logs
 - Program Schedules
 - Educator Credentials
 - Medical Staff Credentials

- Mental Health Staff Credentials
- Dietary Menus
- Academic Schedules
- Fire Drill Documentation
- Sample Incident Reports

Overview

The Kane County Juvenile Detention Center is an 80-bed facility. At the time of the audit, the facility had 22 residents in custody. Living units are arranged with three separate pods containing eight rooms per pod around a large common dayroom.

The facility has been assessed as fully compliant with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards through multiple external audits, with the most recent being completed in 2023. The facility implements specialized PREA compliance software for tracking PREA investigations and automating required annual reporting.

The facility provides youth with ample access to their families, offering three days of in-person visits, offering virtual visits for families who request them. Visitors are permitted to purchase food from a vending machine and share with their youth. A minimum of three free phone calls per day are available to youth. The amount of access youth have to their families without incurring a cost is commendable and exceeds County Detention Standards.

The physical state of the facility is excellent. Administrators have engaged with an outside volunteer for several years who works with youth to create murals throughout the facility that contribute to a welcoming atmosphere. Since the 2024 inspection, the facility implemented new body scanners to conduct thorough searches without utilizing strip searches. The facility has also purchased vehicle cameras for use during youth transports.

Admission Policy and Procedures

The facility internally developed a screening tool (Probable Cause Search Type Criteria Form) to determine the type of search a youth receives on intake. Consistent with previous years, the facility reports that approximately 80% of youth intakes receive a pat-down search upon intake, with the other 20% receiving a visual (strip) search based on the outcomes of the screening tool. All admission searches are tracked, indicating the youth's name, type of search conducted, and the reason for any strip searches that are conducted.

The facility has a clear process for the security of youth clothing. Items are logged in the facility case management system and a printout is placed with the clothing. The facility maintains a supply of donated clothing to provide to youth upon release if needed. Youth watch a PREA video and receive an orientation during the intake process. There is an additional orientation that takes place after a youth's detention hearing. During this orientation a facility supervisor meets with the youth to discuss potential

triggers for the youth that are incorporated into a larger case plan. Youth reported feeling like they understood what to expect during their stay after completing the orientation process.

Personnel, Staffing, and Supervision

On the date of inspection, the facility was fully staffed (53 total staff). A fourth supervisor is being trained as a future PREA coordinator.

The facility maintains an active training program. Wednesdays are considered “training days” at the facility. All staff are scheduled for one full-day training session each month. There was comprehensive documentation detailing the training topic and number of hours provided for each staff member during these training days.

Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement

Programming at the Kane County JDC continues to be strong, utilizing several different methods to engage youth and enhance skills. The facility has maintained a resident council that meets regularly. Standard topics include discussions on ways to reduce incidents in the building and to hear and potentially implement youth suggestions at the facility.

Youth participate in a variety of programming throughout the week. Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT) Groups occur twice a day, facilitated by teachers and JDOs. On the date of the inspection, interviewed youth reported their group from the morning had covered the topic of procrastination. The facility has also implemented a resident of the week.

The facility manages a token economy system. Youth earn points in different behavioral categories throughout time blocks during the day. The points are converted into behavior levels once per week. Privileges associated with higher levels include increased items permitted in room (such as a radio), later bedtimes, and access to video games. Youth also earn “coupons” for exhibiting positive behaviors. Coupons can be redeemed through a commissary that contains a variety of items including snacks and decorative floor pads for youth rooms. Youth on the highest level participate in a group movie night once per week. Youth appeared to be motivated by level incentives during on-site interviews. The facility also permits youth to have a variety of additional items in their rooms, such as cups and posters.

The facility uses a timeout system. Timeouts generally last 5-15 minutes, with more egregious behaviors requiring completion of a CBT tool called “Rational Self Analysis,” which prompts residents to identify irrational thoughts that contribute to inappropriate behavior, as well as more rational beliefs to assist with similar situations in the future. The facility has a clear method for documenting non-behavioral room confinements (such as youth refusal to get up in the morning). Each case is documented, indicating the start time, reason for the confinement, supervisor check-ins every 30 minutes, as well as referrals to mental health.

In exigent circumstances, the facility utilizes individualized programming for youth who exhibit extremely assaultive behavior and/or have not responded to the facility’s behavior program. Since the

2023 inspection, the facility changed this process to a Behavior Stabilization Program (BSP). Youth placed on this status are assigned a peer mentor to facilitate a focus group with the youth and assist with programming assignments. Educators and mental health personnel engage with youth on this status every day. Youth on BSP are not confined during the day; rather they spend the day in individualized programming that consists of education, large-muscle exercise, completion of programming assignments, and free time.

The Kane County JDC continues to demonstrate an internal commitment towards using programming solutions to address youth behavior without a reliance on the use of confinement.

Medical and Health Care

Medical services are provided via a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare. A nurse is onsite from 8am-8pm seven days per week and a nurse practitioner is on-site once per week and is available on call. The facility has a process in place to obtain necessary prescriptions for youth medication. Medication is administered by nursing personnel, except on rare occasions like holidays. All youth detained longer than seven days receive a physical examination. The facility has a clear sick call process. Over the past year a new electronic medical records system has been implemented that is integrated with the case management system.

Mental Health Services

The facility is staffed by one Mental Health Coordinator and two Mental Health Clinicians. Youth are administered the Suicide Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised Assessment (SPQR) upon intake and MHPs see youth within 24 hours. A Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner is on-site once per week and the facility can utilize the Kane County Diagnostic Center as needed. Youth who have external, private therapists can continue sessions via zoom while detained at the facility.

Mental health clinicians run dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) groups and mindfulness yoga sessions with youth at the facility once per week. A LCSW runs three groups with each housing unit per week. A clinician meets with youth on BSP daily, and mindfulness yoga sessions are facilitated on Saturdays. Since the 2023 Inspection, the facility has converted a facility space to a mental health-specific meeting room for use to conduct private individual counseling.

Youth Grievances

The facility has an established process for youth grievances. Grievance forms and grievance boxes were observed on all living units. Youth were familiar with the process and the facility maintains a log of youth grievances and outcomes. Supervisors are the primary responders to youth grievances and the Mental Health Coordinator retains them at their conclusion.

Education

Educational services are managed through the Regional Office of Education. The facility has one principal (who has a special education certification) and four teachers on-site. Teachers provide services to youth according to their endorsements (English, Math, and Science). The school principal acts as the primary substitute teacher when needed. History courses are provided through Edmentum, one period each day. Graduate youth are allowed to choose classes to take during the day through the Edmentum system.

The school schedule consists of six, 50-minute periods throughout the day. Youth attend school with their primary living units, and classes are capped at 12 students. Teachers utilize a direct instructional model for most periods throughout the day. This was observed during the facility walkthrough, as teachers were actively teaching and engaging students in both classrooms that were visited. Special education management occurs through a coordinator with the Regional Office of Education. At the time of the inspection, 25 youth had active IEPs. The special education coordinator sends an IEP summary to the facility every week and teachers meet to review it.