

# 2022 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 19, 2022, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The Department observed several areas of non-compliance during this review. 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.

Auditors encountered barriers in accessing some documentation at the facility that made assessments of compliance in certain areas challenging. The facility did provide some documentation in advance of the audit, such as staff rosters, policies, and training materials, and auditors had access to all youth and staff while on-site. However, access to documentation about incidents and the use of confinement at the facility was more limited. Upon arrival, auditors were informed that incident reports for confinement, use of force, and use of chemical restraints could not be pulled from the facility management information system (Odyssey) prior to 7/1/22. This is the second consecutive year auditors have had challenges accessing information. As noted in the 2021 report, auditors in that audit attempted to access data from the facility “pipe” system used to track security checks of youth when they are confined in their rooms. In 2021, auditors were told the information was unavailable because the county had experienced server issues with the data download and years of data had been lost.

The Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center is not the only county facility that utilizes the Odyssey System for record-keeping. At least one other county facility utilizes that system and had no problem providing documentation. Auditors found the Odyssey System to have a lot of strengths in its ability to collect and access information.

## **Areas of Non-Compliance**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
2602.110 Food Services	Meals shall be served and conducted in a group setting except when prohibited by security or medical needs.
2602.170 Discipline	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. Supervisory staff shall be notified immediately when room confinement is used. At no time should room confinement exceed 4 hours without administrators and/or mental health staff developing an individualized plan to address the behavior.
2602.230 Education	There shall be a minimum of five hours of instruction per day.

2602.50 Admissions Procedures	The agency shall also provide at least one way for youth to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency and that is able to receive and immediately forward resident reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the resident to remain anonymous upon request.
2602.90 Mental Health Services	A service plan shall be developed for each youth that includes: 1) Counseling or psychotherapy to be provided; 2) Behavioral management strategies and goals; 3) Medication; 4) Protocol for monitoring youth's progress; and 5) Needed adjustments to normal detention programs and procedures.

## **Methodology**

- Interviews Conducted
  - Superintendent Willis
  - Educator
  - Supervisor
  - 6 youth
  - 3 Corrections Officers
  - Nurse
  - Mental Health Practitioner
  
- Documents Reviewed
  - Sample Youth Files
  - Detainee Handbook
  - Safety Check Policy
  - Use of Force Policy
  - Use of Force Training Materials
  - Room Restriction Policy
  - Youth Grievance Policy
  - 15-minute check logs

## **Overview**

The Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center is a 40-bed facility with two close-observation rooms. The current rated capacity is 25 youth. On the day of the inspection, the facility housed 12 youth with four Corrections Officers, one supervisor, and the facility superintendent present. The facility still utilizes a full 14-day quarantine process for youth upon admission. Four youth were on a quarantine status on the day of the inspection, three youth were on an administrative intervention status, and one youth was out to court.

The facility has resumed in-person visitation (albeit non-contact) and permits up to three visits per week for one hour. The amount of visitation time that is permitted each week is commendable.

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

The facility superintendent reported that maintaining sufficient staffing levels has been a significant challenge over the past year. At the time of the audit, the facility employed 19 Detention Officers (one of which is on an extended leave of absence) and four Assistant Superintendents. While the facility does have five vacancies, the current number of Detention Officers is sufficient to manage the current facility population. Earlier in the year, however, the facility had 14 Detention Officer vacancies. In an effort to recruit applicants, the Detention Officer starting salary was raised 8% and the facility received a waiver from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) to suspend the bachelor's degree requirement. The facility was able to hire more personnel over the summer, but essentially transferred most of the youth population to nearby counties for housing. From early July through early October, most youth were held at other facilities, with Champaign County employees conducting intakes for new admissions and only housing 1-2 youth at a time.

The facility was able to utilize the summer months to conduct a lot of training for employees. Staff take class through the Relias online system through AOIC. There was ample documentation showing staff training attendance.

Recent updates to County Detention Standards include additions from the Prison Rape Elimination Act regarding employee background checks. Standards now require facilities to conduct background checks on existing employees at least every five years. Auditors were not able to review employee files to confirm this, however Superintendent Willis produced a memo affirming the most recent background checks for all employees who have been employed for more than five years.

### **Admission Policy and Procedures**

The facility provides 24-hour intake services and continued conducting youth intakes during the time the facility was largely closed. The facility recently stopped conducting strip searches of all residents during intake, instead implementing a form to assess risk and determine the type of search needed. The facility also updated the Detainee Handbook to include information about the new behavior program system, youth rights, and sexual abuse and harassment information. The facility has not contracted or entered into an agreement with a neutral third-party organization for youth to make reports of sexual abuse or harassment.

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

- 2602.50 Admissions Procedures states: "The agency shall also provide at least one way for youth to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency and that is able to receive and immediately forward resident reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the resident to remain anonymous upon request."
  - Recommendation:

- Contract with a third-party entity for youth to access in order to report abuse or harassment in a confidential manner.

### **Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement**

The facility recently made a change to the youth behavior management program. It still works on a token economy system with youth earning points each day which are converted into behavior levels. The facility also has a commissary that consists of food and hygiene items. Youth can also purchase an additional phone call and visit. There are not many additional incentives available to youth at the facility.

The use of confinement is prevalent at the facility, with both behavioral and operational issues contributing to its frequent use. Auditors reviewed records from the “pipe system” the facility uses when conducting 15-minute checks when youth are in their rooms. The review showed a significant amount of confinement time for youth in the facility over the days prior to the audit. These confinements included the following:

1. The Sunday prior to the audit, it was noted that general population youth were in their rooms until approximately noon. The facility superintendent reported the facility conducts “deep cleaning” on Sunday mornings and it is general practice for youth to be in their rooms during that time with the exception of a few youth on the highest behavioral level who may assist.
2. Youth are served virtually all of their meals in the rooms. Youth are served breakfast in their rooms by overnight shift staff. Lunch is also served in rooms for all youth and the facility utilizes this timeframe for Detention Officers to take breaks. Staff reported youth sometimes eat dinner in the dining area, but regularly eat dinner in their rooms as well. This time is also utilized for staff breaks.
3. Nearly all youth have a lockdown time of 5:30pm. As noted, dinner is regularly served in rooms. The facility conducts showers for youth one or two at a time. Youth on the highest level may participate in recreation from 7:30pm – 9:00pm. On the day of the inspection, this applied to only two of the 12 youth in custody.
4. Review of the 15-minute checks also revealed general population youth were confined from late afternoon through bedtime the day prior to the audit. The superintendent reported this was due to a shift meeting that took place, despite the fact that the facility had only returned to normal operations 1-2 weeks prior.
5. The facility continues to utilize a 14-day quarantine for all youth intakes. While the facility does rotate youth out in the dayrooms and in the gym individually and provides educational materials during school days, youth are still subject to isolation for that period. DJJ has not typically commented on facility COVID-19 mitigation protocols in inspection reports, and there is at least one other county detention center that still utilizes a 14-day quarantine for youth intakes. However, it is worth noting in this case within the context of other cited reasons the facility employs unnecessary confinement. In this case, it is a further example of using isolation and confinement as general practice when it is likely not necessary.

The facility utilizes an Administrative Intervention status for youth who engaged in serious behaviors. Youth on this status are separated from other youth for recreation and education for 3-6 days. Youth on

this status have access to the gym once per day and work on schoolwork alone in their pod dayrooms during the day.

#### Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.110 Food Services states, “Meals shall be served and conducted in a group setting except when prohibited by security or medical needs.”
  - Recommendation:
    - Serve all meals in a group setting.
- 2602.170 Discipline states: “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. Supervisory staff shall be notified immediately when room confinement is used. 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:
    - Extend youth bedtimes to no earlier than 8:00pm.
    - Identify operational ways to complete regular tasks such as youth showers and facility cleaning without requiring other youth to be confined.
    - Update the intake quarantine process to reflect current CDC recommendations.

#### 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. There are no grievance boxes available for youth to submit grievances, however. Youth need to submit them through a staff member if they would like to file one. The facility retains copies of youth grievances but does not maintain a log to track them. While the facility is compliant with County Detention Standards, best practice regarding youth grievances includes having forms available for all youth to access without having to rely on an employee to supply one, a grievance box with limited access to ensure youth privacy, and a log to track all grievances that are filed.

- Recommendations:
  - Place locked grievance boxes in youth living and programming areas to provide youth with a private way to submit them.
  - Utilize a central log to track all grievances submitted, including the date written, date received, nature of the grievance, outcome, and date of administrator response.

#### Medical and Health Care

Nursing coverage is provide via a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH). Nurses are on-site from 8am – 11am seven days per week and on call 24 hours per day. A medical doctor in 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 to monitor a youth sick call list. Medication management was compliant with County Detention Standards.

## Mental Health Services

The facility entered into a contract with ACH in April 2022 for mental health services coverage, which replaced a prior contract with Wellpath. The new contract with ACH calls for eight hours of mental health services per week, an increase from the six hours in the Wellpath contract. ACH provided a temporary mental health practitioner until the primary mental health practitioner started with the facility in early July. She reported she only went to the facility twice before the youth population was moved to other counties and just returned to the facility the week prior to the inspection. All youth intakes are screened by facility staff for risk of self-harm via the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument and referred to the MHP if indicated. While it is commendable that the facility entered into a contract for mental health services to be provided, eight hours per week is likely insufficient to cover the need. The MHP reported she does not have an official caseload, but youth are able to request to see her when she is on-site twice per week. Youth do not have formal treatment plans.

### Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- Section 2602.90 Mental Health Services states: “A service plan shall be developed for each youth that includes: 1) Counseling or psychotherapy to be provided; 2) Behavioral management strategies and goals; 3) Medication; 4) Protocol for monitoring youth's progress; and 5) Needed adjustments to normal detention programs and procedures.”
  - Recommendations
    - Develop formal treatment plans when the need is indicated through the assessment process.

## Education

Facility educators are employees of the Regional Office of Education. A full-time teacher is present five days per week. A second teacher is available mornings Monday – Wednesday. School was in session at the time of the audit. Five youth were in the school classroom with a teacher. The youth on administrative intervention were working on schoolwork in their dayrooms. Youth in quarantine are also provided schoolwork that they complete when they are outside of their rooms.

The educator reported that while they have been able to provide full-day school in the two weeks since youth returned to the facility, that was not the case for most of the year. Prior to July, the educator reported youth were typically split into two groups and only attended school one at a time for half a day. Some of these split days were attributed to a COVID-19 outbreak, while others were attributed to youth conflicts and low staffing levels. County Detention Standards require youth receive a minimum of five hours of educational services each day. This practice, while not active at the time of the audit, is out of compliance.

### Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.230 Education states: “There shall be a minimum of five hours of instruction per day.”
  - Recommendation:
    - Maintain a schedule for all youth to receive five hours of instruction each day.

## Recommendations

Section	Recommendations
Admissions Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contract with a third-party entity for youth to access in order to report abuse or harassment in a confidential manner.</li></ul>
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extend youth bedtimes to no earlier than 8:00pm.</li><li>• Identify operational ways to complete regular tasks such as youth showers and facility cleaning without requiring other youth to be confined.</li><li>• Update the intake quarantine process to reflect current CDC recommendations.</li></ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain a schedule for all youth to receive five hours of instruction each day.</li></ul>
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop formal treatment plans when the need is indicated through the assessment process.</li></ul>
Grievances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place locked grievance boxes in youth living and programming areas to provide youth with a private way to submit them.</li><li>• Utilize a central log to track all grievances submitted, including the date written, date received, nature of the grievance, outcome, and date of administrator response.</li></ul>