

2022 Sangamon County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

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Executive Summary

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (the “Department”) conducted an annual inspection of the Sangamon County Juvenile Detention Center on October 20, 2022, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). While there are several strengths present at the facility, there were some areas of non-compliance observed.

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. 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.
2602.50 Admissions Procedures	Within 72 hours after the youth’s arrival at the facility and periodically throughout a youth’s confinement, the agency shall obtain and use information about each youth’s personal history and behavior to reduce the risk of sexual abuse by or upon a resident. Assessments shall be conducted using an objective screening instrument. . . 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	Youth with significant mental health needs shall be assessed by a qualified mental health professional. 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
 - PREA Coordinator
 - Educator
 - Nurse
 - Three youth
 - Two Detention Officers
 - Mental Health Practitioner

- Documents Reviewed
 - Staff Schedules
 - Medical Credentials
 - Educator Credentials
 - Youth Handbook
 - Incident Reports
 - Individual Program Plans
 - Menus
 - Mental Health Services Contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare
 - Sample Employee Training Records
 - Daily Schedule
 - Youth Grievance Policy
 - Room Confinement Policy

Overview

The Sangamon County Juvenile Detention Center is a 48-bed facility located in Springfield, Illinois. On the date of the inspection, there were five youth housed at the facility. The physical condition of the facility was good. A contract was in place to replace the roof and new cameras were being installed as part of a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) grant.

Admission Policy and Procedures

The facility is available to conduct youth intakes 24-hours each day. Youth strip searches are no longer conducted as standard policy upon intake; instead, youth are searched via a wand and pat-down search. The facility has a comprehensive orientation manual that was updated during the year to include comprehensive information about PREA, however a formal PREA orientation is not yet conducted for youth coming into the facility. Recent updates to the County Detention Standards require PREA orientation be completed for all youth upon intake. They also mandate that all youth received a risk assessment to determine a youth's risks for victimization. The facility has not yet implemented this risk assessment and does not have a method for youth to report allegations of sexual harassment or abuse to a neutral third party. While the facility is out of compliance with these portions of the standards, they do have a senior administrator identified to act in the role of PREA Coordinator tasked with implementation of these requirements.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.50 Admissions Procedures states: "Within 72 hours after the youth's arrival at the facility and periodically throughout a youth's confinement, the agency shall obtain and use information about each youth's personal history and behavior to reduce the risk of sexual abuse by or upon a resident. Assessments shall be conducted using an objective screening instrument. . . 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:
 - Conduct a formal PREA Orientation for youth upon arrival to the facility.
 - Implement the PREA Risk for Victimization Assessment for youth within 72 hours of admission and periodically throughout a youth’s confinement.
 - Contract with a third-party entity for youth to access in order to report abuse or harassment in a confidential manner.

Personnel, Staffing, Supervision, and Administration

Staffing levels have been a significant challenge for the facility throughout the year. On the date of the on-site inspection, there were a total of fourteen Detention Officers with two new employees about to start, leaving six active employee vacancies. The facility has been operating with a minimum of four staff on-site during day and evening shifts and three overnight. The low staffing levels have impacted daily operations, as the facility has utilized rotating confinements for youth periodically due to inadequate staffing. Facility administrators have had to adjust their own schedules to provide shift coverage over the course of the year. On the day of the audit, there only five male youth at the facility. Two additional Sangamon County female youth were being held at an alternative county detention center in Knox County, as the facility has been particularly short with female employees. This practice has been occurring for much of the year. The facility obtained a waiver from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts to suspend the requirement that employees have a bachelor’s degree in an effort to increase the applicant pool.

Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement

Staff-directed programming has been a strength of the facility in previous inspections. A clear daily schedule was present in the living unit areas with the assigned staff. Typically, Detention Officers facilitate three groups per day with youth (1 during the morning shift and 2 during the evening shift). Group topics include things such as anger management, cognitive-behavior training, and restorative justice. These groups have been impacted by the staffing struggles at the facility and have become much less consistent over the past year. The facility has maintained the token economy system it has to address youth behaviors, using point and level system that is associate with higher privileges. A multi-purpose room has been dedicated as the “Level 3 Room” for use during later evening hours by youth on the highest level. The room contains recreational materials and video games for youth to use. The facility also operates a commissary in which youth can use “coupons” earned for positive behaviors to redeem items from commissary.

The facility utilizes a timeout system to address minor cases of misbehavior amongst youth. Youth who engage in more significant behaviors such as fights or assaults can be placed on an Individual Program Plan (IPP). On the date of the inspection there were two youth on that status. One had been placed on the plan in mid-September (a full month prior to the audit). There are strengths to the IPP intervention in that youth are required to complete cognitive-behavioral and balanced and restorative justice assignments, youth are consistently seen by mental health staff, nursing staff, and the facility program

manager that supervises the plans. There are opportunities for improvement, however, as youth on IPPs are confined for a significant portion of their time on IPP. Given the low population of the facility (five total youth on the day of the audit) there were likely opportunities for the two youth on IPPs to be out of their rooms and engaged in regular programming more consistently.

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. 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:
 - Eliminate the excessive use of confinement for youth on IPP
 - Shorten the length of time youth spend on IPP.

Medical and Health Care

Medical services are provided via a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH) that provides 20 hours of nursing services per week split between two nurses. A physician is on call and visits the facility once per week. All youth receive a physical within seven days of admission. There is a process in place for a physician to review and approve youth medications.

Mental Health Services

Mental Health Services are available through a contract with ACH that started in June of 2022. A Mental Health Practitioner is on-site 15 hours per week, typically over the course of two full days. She does individual counseling for youth who request to see her and does a check on kids on IPP, however currently there are no individualized treatment plans developed. The MHP runs a group once per week on a variety of topics, such as restorative justice or social skills training. The group topic during the week of the audit was on achieving goals. All youth receive an intake assessment that includes a review of their social history.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- Section 2602.90 Mental Health Services states: “Youth with significant mental health needs shall be assessed by a qualified mental health professional. 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 and implement service plans for all youth with mental health needs.

Education

There are two primary teachers employed by the Regional Office of Education that provide services at the facility on a full-time basis for the normal school year. A separate teacher is utilized to teach summer school to ensure educational services are offered year-round. Education is offered via a blended model of direct instruction supplemented by online educational services via the Edmentum Credit Recovery System. Both full-time teachers are special education certified. The facility had two youth graduate high school in May of this year.

Recommendations

Section	Recommendations
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminate the excessive use of confinement for youth on IPP• Shorten the length of time youth spend on IPP.
Admissions Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a formal PREA Orientation for youth upon arrival to the facility.• Implement the PREA Risk for Victimization Assessment for youth within 72 hours of admission and periodically throughout a youth's confinement.• Contract with a third-party entity for youth to access in order to report abuse or harassment in a confidential manner.
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement service plans for all youth with mental health needs.