

2023 Madison County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Executive Summary

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted an annual inspection of the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center on October 5, 2023, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The Department observed several areas of strength during the review, including strong staffing levels and evidence of positive relationships between staff and youth. There were three areas of non-compliance observed and noted. The section 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.

Areas of Non-Compliance

Section	Requirement
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.
2602.170 Discipline	Youth shall not be deprived of the following basic rights as part of a disciplinary response. . . daily exercise. . . access to shower. . . 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.
2602.230 Education	There shall be a minimum of five hours of instruction per day.

Methodology

- Interviews Conducted
 - Superintendent
 - Assistant Superintendent/PREA Coordinator
 - Program Manager
 - Mental Health Professional
 - Supervisor
 - Detention Officers (2)
 - Youth (5)

- Documents Reviewed
 - Confinement Records
 - Youth Grievance Records
 - 2023 Health Department Inspection Report
 - Academic Schedule
 - Educator Licenses

- Confinement Policy
- Medical Licenses
- Sample Incident Reports
- Sample Youth Files
- Sample Medical Files
- Youth Information Handbook
- Dietary Menus
- Use of Force and Handle with Care Training Policy
- Youth Grievance Policy

Overview

The Madison County Juvenile Detention Center is a 49-bed facility located in Edwardsville, IL. The on-site portion of the inspection took place on October 5, 2023, with 21 youth detained at the time of the audit. The facility has an abundance of programming space available given the size of the population. Youth visitation is available via Zoom daily and in-person three days per week.

Admission Policy and Procedures

The Madison County Juvenile Detention Center conducts admissions 24-hours per day. Youth are quarantined for two days upon intake. All youth are assessed upon intake using the MH-JJ Referral Screen to identify any acute mental health needs. Any youth who may have an injury or illness upon intake are assessed for fitness for confinement and referred for medical attention if needed. Youth receive a Youth Information Handbook and formal orientation that contains information about the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Youth are not assessed for risk for sexual victimization as is required by County Detention Standards.

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.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Assess all youth for risk of victimization using an objective screening instrument at admission.

Personnel, Staffing and Supervision

At the time of the audit, the facility was staffed with three administrators, five supervisors, 20 detention officers, two cooks, and one nurse. Staff participate in training via the Relias Program utilized by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts. There is ample documentation demonstrating training completion by staff, including PREA training.

Facility administrators report they operate at normal programming when five staff are present for a shift. If there are four, the facility will split recreation for youth. This also impacts youth education access, as the school day will be split in half in these circumstances. On the date of the audit, the shift was fully staffed, and all youth were out of their rooms; however, both youth and staff indicated that the splitting of recreation had been prevalent over recent weeks, including the day prior.

Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, Confinement, and Education

The volume of programming available to youth is a strength of the detention center. The facility has a contract and volunteer network that provides programming for youth, including things like CALM (Compassion Approach to Learning Meditation), an art therapist that provides services to individuals and groups, religious programming from Madison County Prison Ministries, reading groups provided by librarians from the Glen Carbon Centennial Library, and nursing students who provide health-related educational programming.

The facility is engaged in an active case management process. Staffings are conducted twice per week to review youth on close watch or in need of review. These staffings consist of administrative staff, the program coordinator, facility nurse, and occasionally the Mental Health Counselor. The facility is also focused on re-entry. All youth complete an exit strategy form that encourages them to think about goals and risks upon release. Youth also complete an exit interview to provide feedback to the institution. Youth are asked for input on things like how they were treated during their stay, how they felt about the clothing, school, and visitation policies.

The Madison County Juvenile Detention Center operates a traditional behavior management program with a token economy, called the Merit Program. Youth earn points throughout the day reflective of behavior they exhibit. Points are translated to behavior levels that have increasing privileges such as additional gym time, snacks, and access to video gaming systems. Youth can also earn "Haller Dollars" that can be redeemed at lunchtime for candy, soda, and hot fries. When youth commit behavior infractions, staff utilize strategies such as re-direction, point loss and room time. Youth and staff reported there are also occasions in which youth are not permitted to shower as a consequence for taking too long to shower the day prior. This practice is out of compliance with County Detention Standards.

The facility has an internal tracking mechanism for youth confinement, referred to as the "Disciplinary Room Time Chart." Information captured includes the date and time of the confinement, youth name, reason for the confinement, length of confinement, and staff approving the confinement. While the facility typically limits youth room time to four hours, youth are assigned a fixed length of time due to the nature of the infraction. County Detention Standards require confinement to only last as long as necessary for the youth to calm down to a point where they are no longer a threat to themselves and others. The use of fixed confinement time is out of compliance with standards. Furthermore, the facility will require youth to finish assigned room time the following morning if their assigned time goes past the time they would normally go to bed. This is also out of compliance with County Detention Standards.

Youth are also subjected to confinement for operational reasons. As noted previously in the report, youth recreation time is split when there are not enough employees working on a shift. Youth are also confined throughout the week during normally scheduled events, such as showers and visitation. Most youth are also confined every Saturday morning while facility-wide cleaning is conducted. The cleaning timeframe typically lasts until 1:00pm, resulting in most youth being confined for half of the day.

Youth who exhibit egregious behaviors can be assigned to Individualized Programming Status (referred to as “Wing Seg” by some youth and staff). Youth on this status must remain on their living unit “wings” during the day. These youth do not attend school with other youth; rather, educational materials are brought to them to work on in their wings. There are no desks on the living unit wings, so youth have to sit on the floor to complete assignments. Youth reported they can get assistance on assignments from staff members and occasionally teachers if they ask for it, but typically do not have any sustained contact with a teacher during these times. They also rarely have access to the gym. There were two youth on this status at the time of the inspection. One of the youth had been on that status for six months, having been placed directly onto Individualized Programming Status upon intake due to behaviors he exhibited during a previous stay at the facility.

The education curriculum is managed by the Madison County Regional Office of Education, with two fulltime teachers on-site. The school day is five hours, consisting of direct classroom instruction and gym time. The facility communicates with youths’ home schools so they can receive credit for work completed while in facility.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.170 Discipline states: “Youth shall not be deprived of the following basic rights as part of a disciplinary response. . . daily exercise. . . access to shower. . . 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:
 - End the practice of restricting a youth from showering as a consequence.
 - Only utilize confinement until the youth is calm enough to rejoin programming.
 - Develop individualized behavior plans for youth placed on Individualized Programming Status.
 - End the practice of placing youth directly onto Individualized Programming Status based on behavior from previous detention stays.
 - Ensure all youth have daily access to the gym, including youth on Individualized Programming Status.
- 2602.230 Education states: “There shall be a minimum of five hours of instruction per day.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Ensure all youth on Individualized Programming Status receive at least five hours of education each day.
 - Ensure youth who work on schoolwork outside of the normal classroom have the appropriate items to work on assignments, such as desks and chairs.

Medical and Health Care

Medical oversight of the facility is managed via contract with American Correctional Healthcare; however, the facility employs a part time nurse who conducts a medical assessment for all youth intakes. A doctor or nurse practitioner is on-site once per week. There is a process for verifying youth medications and obtaining prescriptions when needed. Medication distribution is managed by the nurse when on-site; otherwise, distribution is managed by facility staff.

Mental Health Services

Mental health services are provided via contract with Chestnut Healthcare. A Mental Health Counselor is on-site sixteen hours per week and participates in some weekly youth staffings. All youth used to receive a full mental health evaluation; however, this has fallen off over the past year due to high caseloads. Youth only receive services now if they are court-ordered or specifically requested by the youth. The Mental Health Practitioner estimates services are provided to about 2/3 of the youth in facility, typically in the form of help with coping and relationship skills. Treatment plans are developed for youth in need of regular services. Psychiatric oversight is available through Chestnut.

Recommendations

Section	Recommendations
Admissions Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess all youth for risk of victimization using an objective screening instrument at admission.
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End the practice of restricting youth from showering as a consequence.• Only utilize confinement until the youth is calm enough to rejoin programming.• Develop individualized behavior plans for youth placed on Individualized Programming Status.• End the practice of placing youth directly onto Individualized Programming Status based on behavior from previous detention stays.• Ensure all youth have daily access to the gym, including youth on Individualized Programming Status.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure all youth on Individualized Programming Status receive at least five hours of education each day.• Ensure youth who work on schoolwork outside of the normal classroom have the appropriate items to work on assignments, such as desks and chairs.