

# 2023 Sangamon County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

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## **Executive Summary**

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (“Department”) was scheduled to conduct the annual inspection of the Sangamon County Juvenile Detention Center on November 8, 2023, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). Prior to inspection an incident occurred at the facility that necessitated the removal of all residents during the last few months of the year. As such, the on-site portion of the inspection, including youth and staff interviews, could not be completed. The 2023 review documented in this report only includes a review of documentation and policy. Since the on-site inspection and interviews did not occur, no indication of compliance or non-compliance with County Detention Standards is included in this summary.

## **Methodology**

- Documents Reviewed
  - Individual Program Plan Policy
  - Head Check Policy
  - Grievance Procedures
  - Grievance Log
  - Sample Youth Grievances
  - Resident Orientation Handbook
  - PREA Training Records
  - Educator Credentials
  - Public Health Inspection
  - Dietary Menus
  - Programming Schedules
  - Fire and Tornado Drill Documentation
  - Behavior Management Program Manuals
  - Handle With Care Training Materials
  - Sample Incident Reports
  - PREA Risk for Victimization Tool

## **Overview**

The Sangamon County Juvenile Detention Center is a 24-bed facility located in Springfield, Illinois. The number of beds available decreased from 48 beds in 2023 due to some infrastructure changes. Improvements to the facility roof were completed in 2023.

## **Admission Policy and Procedures**

The facility has implemented a screening tool to assess for risk of sexual victimization as part of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA standards). The facility has not yet undergone a formal PREA audit but is seeking to have one completed in 2024.

The Resident Orientation Manual includes an overview of youth rights, facility incentive program, introduction of PREA, and the grievance process.

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

All facility staff utilize a behavior management system and are trained in the cognitive-behavioral training (CBT) model. Staff-directed groups cover CBT concepts such as rational and irrational thinking. The behavior program includes a set of tangible reinforcers where youth earn “coupons” for positive behaviors that can be redeemed for incentives. Youth earn points throughout the day and these points are converted into behavior levels each week. The facility behavior program contains a process that uses timeouts of 5 to 60 minutes when youth exhibit negative behavior. Youth who exhibit more egregious behaviors may be placed on an Individual Program Plan.

### **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.

### **Mental Health Services**

Mental Health Services are available through a contract with ACH that started in June of 2022 that includes 15 hours of on-site services per week. A new Mental Health Practitioner was recently hired.

### **Education**

There are two primary teachers employed by Springfield Public School District #186. Both educators have a special education endorsement.