

2024 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 20, 2024, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). In late 2023, an incident occurred at the facility that necessitated the removal of all residents during the last few months of the year. The detention center remained closed to residents for most of 2024 as facility administrators took steps to hire more staff, have them trained, and gain approval from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) to reopen. The facility reopening plan consisted of a series of items, including identification of a minimum number of staff to hire, updates to several security policies; particularly policies related to searches and management of contraband, and training requirements. Approval to reopen came in December 2024, with December 31, 2024 identified as the date to begin holding youth past their detention hearings if re-detained. As such, the on-site portion of the inspection, including youth and staff interviews, could not be completed. The 2024 review documented in this report only includes a review of training records, facility reopening plan, and policies. 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
 - Sangamon County JDC Reopening Plan
 - Two-Way Radio Policy
 - Visitation Policy
 - Searches of Residents Policy
 - Staff Security Screening Policy
 - Population Search Policy
 - Room Search Policy
 - Handle with Care – Use of Force Policy
 - Head Checks Policy
 - Hostage Situation Policy
 - Facility Searches Policy
 - Active Shooter Policy
 - Admitting a Youth Policy
 - Body Scanner Usage Policy
 - Contraband Accountability Policy

- Interviews Conducted
 - Facility Director
 - Probation Director

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 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA standards). The facility has not yet undergone a formal PREA audit.

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, typically over 3-4 days. 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. At the time this report, there was not a mental health practitioner (MHP) providing these services. While this report is not making a compliance assessment, this would be an area of non-compliance if a MHP is not hired.

Education

There are two primary teachers employed by Springfield Public School District #186. One of the educators has a special education endorsement.