

2022 Inspection Report

KANE COUNTY

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Executive Summary

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted the annual inspection of the Kane County Juvenile Detention Center on June 14, 2022, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The center was found to be fully compliant with the requirements of the 20 Ill. Adm. Code 2602 County Juvenile Detention Standards (“County Detention Standards”). Furthermore, many facility practices exceed County Detention Standards and are indicative of juvenile justice best practice.

Areas of Non-Compliance

None.

Methodology

- Interviews Conducted
 - Superintendent Davis
 - Operations Manager Rivera
 - Assistant Superintendent Sierra
 - Mental Health Director
 - 1 Supervisor
 - 2 Youth Counselors
 - Nurse
 - School Principal
 - Educator
 - 5 youth

- Documents Reviewed
 - Mental Health Evaluation Form
 - Sample Mental Health File
 - SBQ-R Suicide Behaviors Questionnaire
 - Screening for Vulnerability to Victimization and Sexually Aggressive Behavior (VSAB)
 - Daily Schedules
 - Strategic Program Modification Forms
 - Sample Confinement Forms
 - Behavior Management Policy
 - Behavior Management Program: Staff Training Manual
 - Sample Staff Training Records
 - Educator Credentials
 - Grievance Log
 - Grievance Policy
 - Medical Credentials
 - Mental Health Credentials
 - Menus

- Resident Handbook
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit Report (April 6, 2020)
- Safe Crisis Management Training Materials
- Use of Confinement Policy
- Use of Force Policy
- Probable Cause Search Type Criteria Form

Overview

The Kane County Juvenile Detention Center is an 80-bed facility. At the time of the audit, the facility had 31 residents in custody. The facility had three living units in operation at the time of the walkthrough. One living unit operates as the quarantine unit for new youth, and the two other living units served as general population units. Living units are arranged with three separate pods containing eight rooms per pod around a large common dayroom.

While there have been some disruptions due to COVID-19, the facility currently offers in-person family visitation. Visitation for youth is offered in one-hour timeslots up to three days per week.

The facility has been assessed as fully compliant with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards through a formal audit process it underwent in February 2020. The PREA Audit Report, dated 4/6/2020 found the facility met 33/33 standards and exceeded an additional nine standards.

Admission Policy and Procedures

The facility internally developed a screening tool (Probable Cause Search Type Criteria Form) to determine the type of search a youth receives on intake. The facility reports that approximately 80% of youth intakes receive a pat-down search upon intake, with the other 20% receiving a visual (strip) search based on the outcomes of the screening tool.

The facility has a clear process for the security of youth clothing. Items are logged in the facility case management system and a printout is placed with the clothing. Youth watch a PREA video and receive an orientation during the intake process. Youth reported feeling like they understood what to expect during their stay after completing the orientation process.

Personnel, Staffing, and Supervision

On the date of inspection, the facility employed 47 Juvenile Detention Officers (JDOs) and eight supervisors, two of which are specialty supervisors focused on training and programming. One JDO was on a light duty status. While hiring has been a challenge for the facility over the past year, the number of JDOs on staff is sufficient to maintain the required staff to youth ratios.

The facility maintains an active training program. Wednesdays are considered “training days” at the facility. All staff are scheduled for one full-day training session each month. There was comprehensive documentation detailing the training topic and number of hours provided for each staff during these

training days. The facility has also moved to increase the presence of supervisory staff on the floor to provide coaching and 1:1s to JDOs. It is clear from observation, interviews, and documentation that the breadth and quality of training provided to staff exceeds the requirements within the County Detention Standards.

Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement

The facility manages a token economy system. Youth earn points in different behavioral categories throughout time blocks during the day, which in turn are converted into behavior levels once per week. Privileges associated with higher levels include increased items permitted in room (such as a radio), later bedtimes, and access to video games. Youth also earn “coupons” for exhibiting positive behaviors. Coupons can be redeemed through a commissary that contains a variety of items including snacks and decorative floor pads for youth rooms. Youth appeared to be motivated by level incentives during on-site interviews.

Youth participate in Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT) Groups every day. These groups are facilitated by JDOs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as by teachers during Social Emotional Learning (SEL) school programming. On the day of the inspection, one group of youth had participated in an anger management group earlier in the day focused on identifying anger myths. During the walkthrough of the school, a teacher was reviewing the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens as part of the SEL curriculum.

The facility uses a timeout system. Timeouts generally last 5-30 minutes, with more egregious behaviors requiring completion of a CBT tool called a “Resident Self Analysis,” which prompts residents to identify irrational thoughts that contributed to inappropriate behavior, as well as more rational beliefs to focus on in similar situations in the future. Per facility report, there were no behavioral confinements that lasted more than two hours over the past year. Youth and staff interviews corroborated this, as youth described the application of the behavior program in the same terms outlined in policy and training materials. The facility also has a clear method for documenting non-behavioral room confinements (such as youth refusal to get up in the morning). Each case is documented, indicating the start time, reason for the confinement, and supervisor check-ins every 30 minutes). No youth were observed to be on any confinement status during the facility walkthrough.

In exigent circumstances, the facility does utilize individualized programming for youth who exhibit extremely assaultive behavior and/or have not responded to the facility’s behavior program. The facility shared 16 cases over the review period. These cases are documented on a Strategic Program Modification Form, in which the reasons for the individualized program are noted and resident activities and behavior are logged on each day and shift. Youth on this program are out of their rooms during normal waking hours but participate in activities individually on a living unit. One youth who had spent time on such a program was interviewed. She confirmed that she was out of her room during normal waking hours while on the program.

There is a clear commitment to provide meaningful programming and minimize the use of confinement at the facility.

Medical and Health Care

Medical services are provided via a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare. A nurse is onsite from 8am-8pm seven days per week and a licensed physician is on-site once per week and on call. The facility has a process in place to obtain necessary prescriptions for youth medication. Medication is administered by nursing personnel, except on rare occasions like holidays. All youth detained longer than seven days receive a physical. The facility has a clear sick call process.

Mental Health Services

The facility is staffed by one Mental Health Coordinator and two Mental Health Clinicians. Youth are administered the Suicide Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised Assessment (SPQR) upon intake and all youth receive a mental health evaluation and one mental health contact per week. A Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner is on-site once per week and the facility can utilize the Kane County Diagnostic Center as needed. Youth who have external, private therapists can continue sessions via zoom while detained at the facility.

Youth Grievances

The facility has an established process for youth grievances. Grievance forms and grievance boxes were observed on all living units. Youth were familiar with the process and the facility maintains a log of youth grievances and outcomes.

Education

Educational services are managed through the Regional Office of Education. The facility has one principal and three teachers on-site. Teachers provide services to youth according to their endorsements (English, Math, and Science). The school principal acts as the primary substitute teacher when needed. History courses are provided through Edmentum one period each day. Graduate youth are allowed to choose classes to take during the day through the Edmentum system.

The school schedule consists of six, 50-minute periods throughout the day. Youth attend school with their primary living units, and classes are capped at 12 students. Teachers utilize a direct instructional model for most periods throughout the day; this was observed during the facility walkthrough, as teachers were actively teaching and engaging students in both classrooms that were visited. Special education occurs through a coordinator with the Regional Office of Education.