

Knox County Follow-up Visit

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted an annual inspection of Mary Davis Home in Knox County on February 23, 2022, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The Department observed several areas on non-compliance during this review, many of which warranted immediate attention.

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted a follow-up inspection to assess facility progress towards the noncompliant areas on June 28, 2022. There were some improvements noted, but several areas on noncompliance remain.

The table below summarizes the areas of non-compliance and recommendations from the February 23, 2022, inspection, along with the observations from the June 23, 2022, follow-up visit.

Section	Recommendations from February 23, 2022, Inspection	Follow-up Visit Notes – June 28, 2022
Admissions Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the use of strip searches as a standard process during intake. • Implement the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Risk for Victimization Assessment for youth within 72 hours of admission and periodically throughout a youth’s confinement. • Hire a PREA Officer to supervise facility compliance with PREA standards. 	<p>Administrators, staff, and youth all reported that the intake strip search is no longer occurring. Strip searches are only done if there is an individualized reason and with administrator approval. Since the facility made this change, there has not been a strip search conducted in the facility.</p> <p>A sample of youth files were reviewed. PREA Risk Assessments were present.</p>
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget for more supervisory staff to ensure adequate coverage is maintained. • Ensure a supervisor is present for all shifts during youth waking hours. • Alter supervisor schedules to maximize coverage throughout the week. • Alter counselor schedules to maximize coverage throughout the week. 	<p>The facility has hired a 4th supervisor and reports a 5th supervisor position has been approved by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) and will be posted shortly. The addition of the 4th supervisor and changes to the staff schedule has helped decrease the number of times the facility is without a supervisor during waking hours.</p> <p>The facility is making progress towards compliance.</p>
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the use of “shifts” as a behavioral consequence and replace them with a short-term timeout process that releases youth as soon as they demonstrate they are calm and able to return to programming. 	<p>Staff and youth interviews indicated the water shut off practice has been eliminated and is only used temporarily when youth are actively flooding their rooms. A formal policy prohibiting the practice has not yet been developed.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminate the current practices associated with Administrative Plans and the Harvest Wing.• Ensure youth have adequate bedding and materials in their rooms.• Implement policy that prohibits the use of confinement longer than 4 hours without administrator approval and development of an individualized plan.• Enhance the documentation of youth confinement time to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Written reports that indicate the reason for confinement.○ The start and end times of the confinement.○ Attempts to de-escalate the youth and return them to regular programming.• Immediately end any practice of turning off water as a preventative measure and implement a policy that prohibits this practice.• Revise training materials and policy to explicitly prohibit the use of pain compliance and pressure point control.	<p>Administrative staff reported the use of “shifts” has ended, however youth interviews, staff interviews, and documentation indicated the use of shifts is still in place at the facility. In one case from the week prior, a youth made a disrespectful comment to a supervisor during dinner. Documentation indicated the youth was confined during recreation the rest of the evening and the following day during first shift. In another case, a youth was discovered to have too many magazines in his room. He was confined in his room until 3pm the following day. There was also a youth who reported he initially refused to come out of his room at the morning wake-up time. His consequence was room confinement for the entire day.</p> <p>There are two youth at the facility housed in the Harvest Wing of the facility, one of which was present in the same room during the February visit. While both youths were out of their rooms working on educational materials individually in the day room, staff and youth reports indicate the youth have largely remained on a segregation status for much of their stays, characterized by significant amounts of confinement time with limited recreation time individually. The bedding in both rooms appeared similar to the February visit. Neither youth had a pillow and both youths’ mattresses were in states of disrepair.</p> <p>Policy and training materials have yet to be updated. Staff indicated they were aware of the findings from the February visit but have not received training on any new procedures. Resident orientation materials still reference the use of shifts as a consequence, including materials in the file for youth intake a few days prior to the visit.</p> <p>In summary, there has been little improvement on the February findings in this area. Mary Davis Home remains significantly out of compliance with this section of the County Detention Standards and should take immediate action to come into compliance.</p>
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<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire a sufficient number of teachers, including special education teachers, to ensure the required ratios for general and special education are met. • Identify a process to have a substitute teacher in the event of a teacher absence. • Adjust the daily schedule to provide 5 hours of education to all youth each day. 	<p>Facility administrators have attempted to work with the school district to provide additional educational resources. The school district submitted a proposal that called for removing the teacher and replacing him with an instructional aid to assist youth in completing work through the credit recover program Edgenuity. While providing youth access to Edgenuity is a good thing, removal of the direct instruction teacher is not acceptable. On the date of the visit, some youth were attending school in the classroom, while others worked on packets in the program space.</p> <p>The facility remains out of compliance with the County Detention Standards as only one teacher is still available.</p>
<p>Medical and Health Care Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire or contract with a medical doctor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have a facility medical physician provide written approval to the facility before nonmedical staff can issue over-the-counter medication. • Hire or contract with an entity to provide psychiatric and/or psychological services. 	<p>Improvement in this area is in progress. The facility has contracted with Advanced Correctional Healthcare to provide medical services for youth. A one-year contract started on July 20, 2022. It includes 20 hours per week of nursing coverage, telehealth, and a licensed physician.</p>
<p>Mental Health Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ or contract with qualified mental health professionals to provide mental health services to youth at the facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide a mental health assessment for all youth. ○ Develop and implement service plans for all youth with mental health needs. 	<p>Improvements in this area are in progress. The July 20, 2022, contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare include 12 hours per week of coverage by a Qualified Mental Health Practitioner. Advanced Correctional Healthcare has not been able to fill the position, however, so these hours are not yet being provided. Despite the efforts to secure a contract, the facility remains out of compliance in this area.</p>
<p>Clothing, Personal Hygiene, Grooming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase new sets of clothing and discard any clothing that is damaged or stained. • Provide youth with the feminine hygiene products that are requested. 	<p>Youth clothing was observed to be of acceptable quality during the visit. There were no further complaints regarding feminine hygiene products.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide all youth with shirts and sweatshirts. Permit youth to shave as often as desired. 	
Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a tracking and monitoring process to ensure the cleaning of youth rooms matches the established schedule. 	Youth rooms appeared clean during inspection, but there is not a formal process for tracking and monitoring adherence to a cleaning schedule.
Youth Grievances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make grievance forms available to youth without having to obtain one from a staff member. • Place youth grievance boxes in youth living units and common areas. 	The facility had grievance forms available and a locked grievance box was present in the main programming space.
Food Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a policy that specifically states all youth are to be delivered the same meal regardless of behavior status unless directed by medical personnel. • Limit the use of Dining Area Restrictions to instances where security or medical needs prohibit the serving and conducting of meals in a group setting. • Serve three meals on Sundays. 	The facility has mandated that all youth receive the same meal regardless of behavior status. There are occasions in which some youth eat in the main programming space instead of the dining room, which is an improvement from the individual confinement that was associated with the Dining Area restrictions in February. Three meals are now being served on Sundays.