

# 2022 Madison County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

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## **Executive Summary**

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted an annual inspection of the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center on August 4, 2022, 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 was one area of non-compliance observed 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
2602.170 Discipline	Room confinement may be used only as a temporary response to behavior that threatens the safety of the youth or others.

## **Methodology**

- Interviews Conducted
  - Superintendent
  - Program Manager/Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator
  - Mental Health Professional
  - 5 Detention Officers
  - 6 youth
- Documents Reviewed
  - Disciplinary Room Time Chart
  - Dietary Certifications
  - Fire Drill Documentation
  - Annual Education Plan
  - Educator Licenses
  - Fit for Confinement Form
  - Handle with Care Manual
  - Job Descriptions
  - Nurse Credentials
  - Exit Strategy Questions
  - Exit Interview Questions
  - Rules and Sanctions Policies
  - Use of Force Policy
  - Youth Information Handbook (English and Spanish)
  - Site Safety Plan
  - Staff Roster
  - 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 August 4, 2022. While many county facilities have struggled with hiring over the past few years, the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center has been able to maintain adequate staffing numbers, well above the minimum staffing levels required by standards. The facility has an abundance of programming space available given the size of the population. Visitation is available to youth daily via Zoom. The facility has not re-implemented in-person visitation that was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Admission Policy and Procedures**

The Madison County Juvenile Detention Center conducts admissions 24-hours per day. The facility still utilizes a strict 14-day quarantine process for all youth intakes. All intakes 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 PREA.

## **Personnel, Staffing and Supervision**

While many county facilities have struggled with maintaining adequate staffing, Madison County has been able to maintain sufficient staffing over the past year and operates well within required ratios. At the time of the audit, the facility was staffed with three administrators, five supervisors, 18 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. The facility has partnered with local colleges, universities, and junior colleges to provide programming like job readiness, resume-building health education (including hygiene, nutrition, and life skills).

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

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 a CALM (Compassion Approach to Learning Meditation) group and an art therapist that provides services to individuals and groups. The art therapist was on-site during the inspection and worked with multiple youth while auditors were on-site. The facility also partners with the Southern Illinois University and Southwestern Illinois College Nursing schools to provide programming on hygiene, sexually transmitted diseases, and nutrition.

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 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, call 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. When youth commit behavior infractions, staff utilize strategies such as re-direction, point loss, room time, and thinking reports. 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. Behavioral room time is limited to four hours. The facility has utilized room confinement to separate youth, however. On the day of the audit, youth were assigned to two different groups. One group was out for recreation while the other group was confined in their rooms. Administrators reported this was caused by a series of court orders to keep certain youth separated from one another. It is clear this is not common practice at the facility, as youth affirmed in interviews that the rotating confinements were something started in recent weeks and had not been in place beforehand. Nonetheless, this practice is out of compliance with County Detention Standards. The facility has a good degree of quality programming space throughout. It is possible to maintain the required separation while programming youth in separate locations without the need for confinement.

Overall, it is clear there are positive relationships between youth and staff at the facility. Interviewed youth indicated they felt respected by employees and safe at the facility. The culture and environment at the facility is positive.

#### Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.170 Discipline states: “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.”
  - Recommendations:
    - Identify and implement ways to maintain separation of youth when needed without resorting to room confinement to do so.

#### **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 and facility staff when she is not on-site.

#### **Mental Health Services**

Mental health services are provided via a contract with Chestnut Healthcare. A Mental Health Counselor is on-site two days per week and participates in weekly youth staffings. Youth receive a full mental health evaluation and treatment plans are developed for youth in need of regular services. Psychiatric oversight is available through Chestnut.

### **Education**

The education curriculum is managed by the Madison County Regional Office of Education. The school day is five hours, consisting of classroom instruction and gym time. The annual schedule consists of 218 instructional days. There are primary teachers who through the Regional Office of Education (ROE) assigned to the facility. The facility communicates with youth home schools so they can receive credit for work completed while in facility.

### **Recommendations**

Section	Recommendations
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and implement ways to maintain separation of youth when needed without resorting to room confinement to do so.</li></ul>