

2022 Inspection Report

LAKE COUNTY

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Executive Summary

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted the annual inspection of Hulse Juvenile Detention Center in Lake County on March 16, 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 McMahan
 - Director Edwards
 - Assistant Director Zakaras
 - Deputy Superintendent Clark
 - Deputy Superintendent Miller
 - Educator Pulaski
 - 1 Nurse
 - 1 Mental Health Staff
 - 1 Juvenile Counselor
 - 7 youth

- Documents Reviewed
 - Use of Force Policy
 - Use of Confinement Training Materials
 - Use of Confinement Policy
 - Behavior Management Policy
 - Security Check Policy
 - Sample security check logs
 - Youth Grievance Policy
 - 2021 Youth Grievance Log
 - Resident Orientation Handbook
 - PREA Audit Report
 - CPR-First Aid Training Documentation
 - Professional and Educator Credentials
 - Fire Inspection Report (November 2021)
 - DPH Food Services Inspection Report (June, 2021)
 - Dietary Menus
 - Recreation and Academic Schedules

- Fire and Tornado Drill Logs
- Sample Resident File
- Sample Youth Point Card
- Youth Phone Records
- Sick Call Logs
- Medication and Sharps Inventories
- Visitation Logs

Overview

The Hulse Juvenile Detention Center in Lake County, Illinois is a 48-bed facility. The facility contains both the juvenile detention center and a residential treatment facility, called the FACE-IT Program.

At the time of the audit, the facility had 16 residents (all male) in the juvenile detention center. Upon intake, youth are placed on a quarantine status as part of the COVID-19 mitigation strategies recommended by the Lake County Health Department. At the time of the audit, four of the 16 youth were on a quarantine status.

Facility administrators reported that while COVID-19 has certainly been a challenge over the past two years, the facility has been able to maintain some of their regular practices with some intermittent interruptions. In-person family visitation has been maintained for much of the past year, with some small disruptions during upticks in the community. The facility hosts in-person family visitation three days per week and provides three phone calls per weeks.

The facility has been assessed as fully compliant with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards through a formal audit process it underwent in November 2021. The PREA Audit Report, dated 2/20/2022 found the facility compliant with 39/39 standards.

The specificity and organization of the facility policy manual and training materials, particularly related to youth confinement, are exceptional.

Admission Policy and Procedures

The facility has updated policies regarding searches of youth upon admission to the facility. Policy 2F “Searches of Residents” details procedures for determining the type of search to be conducted and affirms the need for reasonable suspicion of contraband and approval from the Superintendent or designee to conduct a strip search (referred to as a “visual search” in facility policy).

The Youth Orientation Manual is thorough and includes information on PREA and grievance procedures consistent with County Detention Standards.

Personnel, Staffing and Supervision

At the time of the inspection, the facility reported having eight Juvenile Counselor vacancies with two newly hired staff. While hiring has been a challenge over the past year, the facility has been able to sustain normal operations. At the time of the audit, the facility had five Unit Managers on staff (a supervisory position), and 36 employees in different types of Juvenile Counselor roles, a volume of staff that is sufficient for providing the care required by County Detention Standards.

Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement

The facility utilizes a token economy system to promote positive youth behavior. Youth earn points based on behaviors throughout the day, which determine a youth's level (A Group, B Group, and C Group). Each level is associated with a different set of privileges standard to token economies. It should be noted that while the facility is in compliance with County Detention Standards, there are opportunities for improvement. Youth on the lowest level (C Group) are required to wear orange jumpsuits and sit in chairs where they are not able to view the television. Dressing youth in such a way can have a shaming quality to it, and it is recommended that the practice change.

Facility Policy 13E "Room Time" governs the use of confinement at the facility. The policy is reflective of the County Detention Standards in that confinement is only used as a temporary response to behavior that threatens the immediate harm to the resident or others. The policy also places Unit Managers as the responsible part to ensure confinement does not last for more than four hours without the development of an individualized plan. There is a specialized training on the appropriate use of confinement that clearly articulates the requirements on the use of confinement.

The need for individualized plans has been rare at the facility over the past year, although there was one youth at the time of the audit who had assaulted a peer the weekend before the visit and was on an individualized plan. In these cases, the facility convenes a multi-disciplinary team to develop a Specialized Individualized Programming Plan for the youth. The youth on this status during the audit was out of his room and doing schoolwork in the day room during the facility inspection. A plan had been developed for the youth and the youth was familiar with his goals. The work the facility has done to reduce the use of confinement and implement individualized plans such as this is commendable.

The facility utilizes Handle with Care as the method of physical restraint at the facility. The need for physical restraint has been rare at the facility over the past year. The facility policy that governs restraints (Policy 21 "Crisis Intervention") is very thorough, describing the crisis response continuum and tension reduction cycle. The policy clearly articulates de-escalation techniques and affirms that Handle with Care is not to be used as a form of discipline or punishment. It also describes a debriefing and review process as part of every physical restraint event to target training and feedback to employees. These procedures are representatives of industry best practice.

It should be further noted that youth reported a great deal of consistency with the daily schedule. All youth interviewed reported they know what to expect every day and feel safe at the facility.

Recommendations

- Eliminate the use of orange jumpsuits for youth on C Group.

Medical and Health Care

The facility contracts with Wellpath for medical services. Nursing staff are on-site 8am-6pm seven days per week. All youth receive a medical screening within seven days of intake. Prescriptions are verified and prescribed by a medical doctor. The medical room at the facility is orderly and medications are stored appropriately.

Mental Health Services

The facility has a part-time therapist that provides approximately 20 hours of services per week. Youth are assessed using the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS) upon admission to the facility. Treatment plans are developed for youth on an as-needed basis. The volume of mental health services available to youth is sufficient given the population size of the facility. Mental health staff facilitate regular groups using the SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress) curriculum.

Youth Grievances

The facility youth grievance policy (Policy 9B “Grievance Process”) describes a process that is consistent with County Detention Standards. The facility received 14 youth grievances in 2021. The facility maintains a grievance log for tracking purposes. Grievances were addressed in a timely manner and forms were observed as readily available during the inspection. All youth understood how to access one and had trust in the process.

Education

Education at the facility is managed by the Regional Office of Education. The facility has two teachers on-site the day of the audit, one of which was a special education teacher. Youth were in school during the on-site inspection. Teachers interact with the youth home school in order to obtain classwork and participate in IEP meetings as needed. The facility is implementing use of the APEX online curriculum for credit recovery. Arts and Crafts programming is facilitated by a volunteer from the Vernon Hills Library.

Recommendations

Section	Recommendations
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminate the use of orange jumpsuits for youth on C Group.