



Department of  
Rehabilitation & Correction

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Annette Chambers-Smith, Director

11/27/2019

Sheriff Dave Phalen  
Fairfield County Justice Center  
345 Lincoln Ave.  
Lancaster, OH 43130

RE: 2019 Annual Jail Inspection

Dear Sheriff Dave Phalen:

In accordance with Section 5120.10 of the Ohio Revised Code and Executive Order 92-03 of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Fairfield County Justice Center, a full service jail, was inspected on 11/12/2019. The inspection was restricted to assessing compliance with a group of standards, selected from the Standards for Jails in Ohio promulgated by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The group of standards being inspected focused on Reception & Release, Classification, Security, Housing, Sanitation and Environmental Conditions, Communication, Visitation, Medical and Mental Health Services, Food Service, Recreation and Programming, Inmate Discipline, Administrative Segregation, Grievance, Staffing, and Staff Training. The inspection consisted of this Inspector receiving and/or reviewing requested documentation and/or materials, touring selected areas of the jail, and having discussions with various jail staff.

The total actual general housing capacity for the Fairfield County Justice Center is 384. On the date of the jail inspection, there were 304 inmates incarcerated in the Fairfield County Justice Center. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction recommended housing capacity for the jail is 384, which is based upon total available living space and other requirements. Officials should maintain prisoner counts within the Department's recommended capacity figure.

The Fairfield County Justice Center (Full Service Jail) is in compliance with 108 standards, 51 "Essential", and 57 "Important".

5120:1-8-01 (A)(1); -01 (A)(3); -01 (A)(4); -01 (A)(9); -01 (A)(12); -02 (B)(1); -02 (B)(2); -02 (B)(4); -02 (D); -03 (A)(1); -03 (A)(2); -03 (A)(3); -03 (A)(4); -03 (A)(5); -03 (A)(6); -03 (A)(7); -03 (B)(2); -03 (B)(4); -03 (B)(5); -03 (B)(6); -03 (B)(7); -03 (B)(8); -03 (B)(9); -03 (B)(10)(a); -03 (B)(10)(b); -03 (B)(10)(c); -03 (B)(10)(d); -03 (B)(11)(b); -03 (B)(11)(c); -03 (B)(12); -03 (B)(15); -03 (B)(16); -03 (B)(17); -04 (A)(4); -04 (B); -04 (D); -04 (E); -04 (F); -04 (G); -04 (H); -04 (J); -04 (K); -05 (A); -05 (B); -05 (C); -05 (E); -05 (G)(1); -05 (G)(2); -05 (H)(3); -05 (I); -05 (J); -05 (K); -05 (L); -05 (M); -05 (O); -05 (P); -05 (Q); -06 (B); -06 (C); -06 (F); -06 (G); -07 (A); -07 (D); -07 (E); -07 (H); -07 (I); -09 (A); -09 (E); -09 (F); -09 (G); -09 (H); -09 (J); -09 (K); -09 (M); -09 (N); -09 (P); -09 (Q); -09 (R); -09 (U); -09 (V); -09 (W); -09 (X); -10 (A); -10 (B); -10 (C); -10 (D); -10 (E); -10 (F); -10 (G)(1); -10 (G)(2); -11 (A); -11 (B); -11 (E); -12 (B); -12 (C); -12 (F); -12 (G); -12 (H); -15 (B); -15 (D); -15 (E); -16 (A); -17 (D); -17 (E); -17 (F); -18 (A); -18 (C); -18 (E);

The Fairfield County Justice Center did not comply with 9 standards, 3 "Essential", and 6 "Important". This letter is intended to serve as a basis for developing plans of action for bringing the facility into compliance with the deficiencies noted during the inspection.

5120:1-8-01 (A) (7) (Important) The jail shall develop and implement policies and procedures governing strip searches and body cavity searches during reception in consultation with the county prosecutor, city attorney or law director consistent with section 2933.32 of the Revised Code.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-04 (C) (Important) Single cells/rooms and multiple occupancy cells/rooms/dormitories shall have an air circulation of fifteen cubic feet of outside or recirculated filtered air per minute per occupant or as required by the local authority having jurisdiction. Documentation from a qualified source shall be maintained by the jail.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-05 (N) (Important) Training in jail fire safety equipment shall be conducted annually.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-09 (B) (Essential) Inmate pre-screen. Before acceptance into jail, health-trained personnel shall inquire about, but not be limited to the following conditions and the health authority shall develop policies for the acceptance or denial of admission for:

- (1) Suicide thoughts/plan.
- (2) Current serious or potentially serious medical or mental health issues needing immediate attention.
- (3) The use of taser, pepper spray or other less lethal use of force during arrest.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-09 (C) (Essential) Receiving screen. Health trained personnel, in accordance with protocols established by the health authority, shall perform a written medical, dental and mental health receiving screening on each inmate upon arrival at the jail and prior to being placed in general population.

- (1) Inquiry includes at least the following:
  - (a) Current and past illness and health problems;
  - (b) Current and past dental problems;
  - (c) Current and past mental health problems;
  - (d) Allergies;
  - (e) Current medications for medical and mental health;
  - (f) Hospitalizations for medical or mental health purpose(s);
  - (g) Special health needs;
  - (h) Serious infection or communicable illness(s);
  - (i) Use of alcohol and drugs including types, amounts and frequency used, date or time of last use and history of any problems after ceasing use i.e. withdrawal symptoms;
  - (j) Suicidal risk assessment;
  - (k) Possibility of pregnancy;
  - (l) Other health problems as designated by the health authority.
- (2) Observation of the following:
  - (a) Behavior including state of consciousness, mental health status, appearance, conduct, tremors and sweating;
  - (b) Body deformities and ease of movement;
  - (c) Condition of skin, including trauma markings, bruises, lesions, jaundice, rashes, infestations and needle marks or other indications of drug abuse.
- (3) Medical disposition of inmate:
  - (a) General population;

- (b) General population with prompt referral to appropriate health or mental health services;
- (c) Referral for emergency treatment;
- (d) Medical observation/isolation;
- (e) Mental health observation/precautions;
- (f) Documentation of date, time and signature and title of person completing screening.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-09 (D) (Essential) Health appraisal. Within fourteen days, a licensed nurse, physician, physician's assistant, EMT or paramedic shall complete a health appraisal to determine the medical and mental health condition for each inmate in custody. Such appraisal shall at least include the following:

- (1) Review of receiving screen.
- (2) Collection of additional data to complete the medical, dental and mental health history.
- (3) Laboratory and/or diagnostic tests to detect tuberculosis and other suspected communicable diseases as designated by the health authority.
- (4) Recording the height, weight, pulse, blood pressure and temperature.
- (5) Medical examination as determined by the examiner.
- (6) Mental health assessment.
- (7) Initiation of therapy when determined necessary by the examiner.
- (8) Development and implementation of a treatment plan.
- (9) Other test and examination as determined by the examiner or health authority.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that meets the intent of the standard in regard to policy. However, while on site the procedures and practices were determined to be non-compliant. Specifically, not all inmates were being tested for tuberculosis.

5120:1-8-17 (G) (Important) A written code of ethics shall be provided to jail staff.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-18 (B) (Important) Correctional officers shall receive training as follows:

- (1) Training in jail policies and within sixty days of employment.
- (2) During the first year of assignment, training consistent with Chapter 109:2-9 of the Administrative Code.
- (3) Eight hours of-service training each subsequent year of employment addressing specific job assignments and/or jail related issues. These training hours are in addition to training mandated by other standards.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-18 (D) (Important) Jail support staff with occasional contact shall receive training in pertinent agency policies and procedures prior to or in conjunction with assignment to jail duties.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

Plan of action forms are enclosed. Completed form(s) and/or corrective materials addressing the noted deficiencies must be completed and submitted through the Ohio Jail Management System (OHJMS) at [www.OHJMS.Intelligrants.com](http://www.OHJMS.Intelligrants.com) within 45 days of receipt of this correspondence. Please feel free to contact the Bureau if you need assistance or clarification in this effort. The Bureau remains available to discuss the aspects of this report or to provide reference materials or assistance as desired.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Landrum', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

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