



Department of  
Rehabilitation & Correction

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Annette Chambers-Smith, Director

10/09/2019

Sheriff George Lavender  
Ross County Jail  
28 North Paint Street  
Chillicothe, OH 45601

RE: 2019 Annual Jail Inspection

Dear Sheriff George Lavender:

In accordance with Section 5120.10 of the Ohio Revised Code and Executive Order 92-03 of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ross County Jail, a full service jail, was inspected on 09/23/2019. 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 Ross County Jail is 192. On the date of the jail inspection, there were 184 inmates incarcerated in the Ross County Jail. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction recommended housing capacity for the jail is 102, which is based upon total available living space and other requirements. Officials should maintain prisoner counts within the Department's recommended capacity figure .

The Ross County Jail (Full Service Jail) is in compliance with 102 standards, 49 "Essential", and 53 "Important".

5120:1-8-01 (A)(1); -01 (A)(3); -01 (A)(4); -01 (A)(7); -01 (A)(9); -01 (A)(12); -02 (B)(1); -02 (B)(2); -02 (B)(4); -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 (C); -04 (D); -04 (E); -04 (F); -04 (H); -04 (J); -05 (A); -05 (B); -05 (C); -05 (G)(1); -05 (G)(2); -05 (H)(3); -05 (I); -05 (J); -05 (K); -05 (L); -05 (M); -05 (P); -05 (Q); -06 (C); -06 (G); -07 (A); -07 (D); -07 (E); -07 (H); -07 (I); -09 (A); -09 (C); -09 (D); -09 (E); -09 (F); -09 (G); -09 (H); -09 (J); -09 (K); -09 (M); -09 (N); -09 (P); -09 (Q); -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 (G); -18 (B); -18 (C); -18 (E);

The Ross County Jail did not comply with 14 standards, 3 "Essential", and 11 "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) (10) (Important) The jail shall develop, implement, maintain, and update as necessary a set of generally applicable inmate rules. The rules shall be accessible to all inmates and shall provide information regarding confinement including sleeping hours, meals, mail, work assignments, telephone access, visitation, correspondence, medical care, hygiene, laundry, recreation, programs, rules of conduct, disciplinary procedures and grievance procedures. A staff member or translator shall assist the inmate in understanding the inmate rules if there is a literacy or language problem. The jail shall maintain signed acknowledgements from each inmate acknowledging that the rules were received by and/or explained to them.

Comments: On the day of the inspection, the inmates did not have access to the inmate rules of conduct. They weren't accessible on the kiosks, no hard copies were found during inspection walk through. Also inmates I interviewed either didn't know they existed or didn't know how to get them, some mentioned they used to be on the kiosk. Jail Administrator advised someone was working on getting them back on the kiosks but was unable to provide supporting documentation.

5120:1-8-02 (D) (Important) Inmates, when placed in general population, shall be: D1): Assigned a bed. D2): Provided with a mattress, blanket, bed linens, and towels. D3): Provided with articles to maintain personal hygiene (toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items and soap).

Comments: On the day of the inspection, due to overcrowding the jail does not meet the assigned beds requirements for this standard.

5120:1-8-04 (A) (4) Full service jails shall provide inmates with sufficient space. The jail shall maintain documentation regarding square footage and maximum occupancy figures for all housing and holding areas, and shall comply with the following minimum requirements: Day space: (Important) Thirty-five square feet per number of occupants occupying the day space at one time. Minimum size of one hundred five square feet.

Comments: On the day of the inspection, due to overcrowding, the jail has exceeded the Bureau Recommended Capacity (BRC) for their facility and there is not the recommended amount of day space for each inmate.

5120:1-8-04 (B) (Important) Seating shall be provided in holding areas, holding cells, housing cells, dormitories, dayrooms and eating areas for each inmate.

Comments: On the day of inspection, due to overcrowding, the jail does not meet the seating requirements for this standard.

5120:1-8-04 (G) (Important) Shower facilities at a minimum of one operable shower for every twelve occupants. Water temperatures shall be controlled thermostatically in a range from one hundred five to one hundred twenty degrees Fahrenheit.

Comments: On the day of inspection due to overcrowding, the jail has exceeded the ratio of shower facilities of 1:12.

5120:1-8-05 (D) (Important) Regular maintenance and repairs shall occur.

Comments: Regular maintenance and repairs, on the day of the inspection, Cell in H-Pod #3 cant be used due to door frame deterioration, several cells in need of repair, locks and chipping/peeling paint through out the facility. It should be mentioned that the facility is under renovation, however the Jail Administration did not provide supporting documentation for correction of these deficiencies.

5120:1-8-05 (E) (Essential) The jail shall be inspected annually by local or state health authorities and a written report shall be provided. There shall be a written plan to correct jail-related deficiencies.

Comments: At the time of inspection the jail did not provide supporting documentation in order to evidence compliance for this standard. Noted on health inspection dated June 12, 2019 that items are scheduled to be fixed during ongoing construction of the facility. The jail did not provide any updated written plans or supporting documentation in regards to

this work. Additionally, on date of our inspection September 23, 2019 the deficiencies still need corrected.

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

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

5120:1-8-05 (O) (Essential) Fire drills shall be conducted every three months on each shift.

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

5120:1-8-06 (B) (Important) Incoming and outgoing inmate mail, correspondence and packages shall be opened and inspected to intercept contraband or non permitted items. The jail shall document procedures for the appropriate disposition of intercepted items.

Comments: The jails policy and procedures need updated to reflect the specific components of the 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: On the day of the inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-17 (F) (Important) There shall be a written policy and procedure governing the screening, training and use of volunteers in the jail.

Comments: At the time of inspection, the jail did not upload policy and procedures to reflect this standard and components specified. Additionally, the jail did not provide supporting documentation in order to evidence compliance for this standard.

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

- (1) During the first year of assignment receive twenty-four hours of training including legal aspects of corrections, basic security concepts, emergency preparedness, interpersonal communications, first aid/CPR, unarmed self-defense, and " Standards for Jails in Ohio."
- (2) Two hours of in-service training each subsequent year of employment addressing specific job assignments and/or jail related issues.

Comments: On the day of inspection, the jail 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: On the day of inspection, the jail 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 "Joseph Landrum", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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