



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

Office of Detention Facilities

Date: November 9, 2022

Sheriff Denita Ball
Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office
821 W. State Street, Room 107
Milwaukee, WI 53233

RE: 2022 Annual Inspection

Facility Name: Milwaukee County Jail
Address: 949 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Facility Type and Applicable Wisconsin Administrative Code:

- Juvenile Detention Facility (Chapter DOC 346)
- Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (Chapter DOC 347)
- Huber Facility (Chapter DOC 348)
- Municipal Lockup Facility (Chapter DOC 349)
- Jail (Chapter DOC 350)

Date of Inspection: November 1, 2022 and November 2, 2022 **Inspected By:** Amy Vaughn

Inspection Process: The annual inspection of the facility was conducted pursuant to WI Statute 301.37(3). The inspection compared the facility and its operation to applicable state statutes and Department of Corrections administrative code. This inspection consisted of a tour of the facility to assess the safety, sanitation, adequacy, and fitness of the facility; dialogue with staff and inmates; and a review of facility records and documentation.

Approved Capacity Details

| Maximum Rated Capacity | Population on the Day of Inspection | Is Facility Approved to Double Cell | Is Facility Approved to Hold Juveniles |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 972 | 961 | Yes | No |

Population on day of inspection included: 856 males, 90 females, and 15 in the booking area. There were also an additional 41 on active out status.

Inspection Results:

Operational Changes:

- Sergeant Position- The facility has reclassified 23 Officer positions and created 21 new Sergeant positions in the 2022 budget.
- Hiring Events-Due to unprecedented staffing shortages within the last two years the Department has made significant changes to recruitment. Earlier this year hiring events were held in which candidates could apply, interview, begin the background process, and receive a conditional offer on the same day.
- Tablets-All general population occupants are now issued tablets. Tablets offer reading material, music, entertainment, law library material, educational material, and allow for messaging.
- Door Control and intercom systems have been replaced.
- Housing- Due to overcrowding issues the facility has begun housing Milwaukee County occupants at the Racine County Jail. Racine county is willing to accept up to 80 occupants at a given time.
- GED Programming-The facility has partnered with Literary Services Wisconsin to provide GED and reading/writing programming services to our occupants.
- Suicide Prevention Phones (non-corded phones) have been installed in the cells of the booking room to improve safety.
- Bail Pay MPD- The Milwaukee County Jail worked collaboratively with the Milwaukee Police Department on a process where bails can be paid while occupants are waiting for transfer to the Milwaukee County Jail. This has assisted in reducing bookings and overcrowding at both facilities (Jail and MPD lockup).
- Book and Release- Facility has implemented a new booking process for individuals who are ordered by the court to be booked into and released from facility solely for the purposes of booking and fingerprinting. These individuals are no longer brought into the facility through the conventional booking process. The occupants report to the jail records area and are booked, fingerprinted, and released in a very short time from that location. This new process has successfully reduced jail population and assisted with minimizing overcrowding in the booking area.
- MAT Programming-The Milwaukee County Jail has worked collaboratively with their medical vendor to provide comprehensive Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) for occupants with substance dependency issues.

Initiatives:

- KeyWatcher System – The facility received Capital Project funding for a KeyWatcher system in the 2023 budget. The system will improve key access and accountability.
- Kitchen Equipment-ARPA funding has been received to replace all kitchen equipment to improve the performance and efficiency of the kitchen.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Electronic Discovery Occupant Review- The facility is working on a process and technology that would allow Attorneys to send electronic discovery material to video conferencing stations within the housing units.
- 4D Suicide Watch Barrier- Facility has obtained Capital Project funding and completed architectural renderings for the installation of a physical barrier on the upper level of sub pod D in pod 4D that would prevent an inmate from jumping off the upper tier. This barrier will be transparent and enable officers at the workstation to observe occupants on suicide watch at all times. Upon completion of the project later this year, all inmates on suicide watch will be housed in 4D sub pod D. They will be locked out of their cells during daytime hours to ensure continual observation.
- Part-Time Staffing- Facility will focus on hiring 10 already certified LESB jailers to work 20 hours per week in the facility.

Operations:

- Health Care: Medical services are contracted through Wellpath. Services are shared between the House of Correction and the Milwaukee County Jail. Nursing coverage is on-site 24 hours per day. There are various positions held between both facilities including: Health Service Administrator, Director of Nursing, RN's, LPN's, RN Supervisor, Mental Health RN, Doctor, and Dentist. Review of random records indicated medication administration records, health transfer summaries, health assessments, health appraisals, and medication verification records are appropriately completed. Medical staff reported good collaboration between security, medical, and mental health.
- Mental Health: Mental health is contracted through Wellpath and covers both the House of Correction and the Milwaukee County Jail. Coverage is provided by a Chief Psychiatrist, Director of Mental Health, Assistant Director of Mental Health, Psychiatric RN, Case Managers, and various Social Workers. Mental Health Services are provided 7 days per week at the facility. Review of sample documentation indicated that subjects on suicide watch are only cleared after a face-to-face assessment. There is a referral process in place for subjects to request care. There is a weekly meeting with administration, medical, and mental health to discuss those of concern and to ensure continuity of care.
- Food Service: Food service is provided by Aramark personnel with the assistance of resident workers. Food is prepared at the House of Correction and transported to the Jail. Inspection of the kitchen showed that food was properly stored and labeled. Temperatures were being monitored and recorded for hot food, cooler, freezer, and dishwasher. There is a system in place to log and account for sharps. An outside kitchen inspection was completed on 10-26-22 by Steritech. Menus have been reviewed by an Aramark registered dietician. The kitchen was found to be clean and well organized.
- Fire and Safety: Evacuation routes were posted throughout the facility. Fire extinguishers and self-contained breathing apparatuses were available and maintained. The annual fire

inspection was completed by the City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services on 5-17-22.

- Training: A review of training records indicated that all code required training has been completed and documented.

Inspection Comments:

State Statute and Administrative Rule Violations

On the dates of inspection there were **no violations of administrative code** found at the facility.

Recommendations

Overall Facility Maintenance- Jail administration's diligence in ongoing identification of needs and action plan for addressing continue to be supported. Due to the size, age, and scope of facility needs, consideration should be given to having maintenance staff assigned specifically to the jail. The below items of concern were observed during the inspection process.

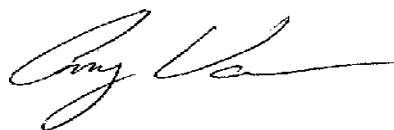
- Showers throughout the facility are showing signs of significant wear. Tiles in the shower areas are worn, chipped, and excessively stained. Damaged tile presents safety concerns and should be addressed by maintenance. Mildew and mold observed in cracks and corners of showers. Various showers require new caulking around the lighting within the shower.
- Ceilings and lights in the cells necessitate scrapping and cleaning as there were substantial amounts of toilet paper and toothpaste on them.
- Window tinting material needs replacement in certain housing units. In several of the housing areas inmates have torn large sections of the tinting material off of the windows to allow for a clear view into areas such as indoor recreation space. This presents various safety and security issues and should be addressed.
- Excessive amounts of graffiti observed in cells throughout the facility. Staff and supervisors need to be diligent in inspecting conditions of cells and working with occupants or maintenance to have it removed.
- Vents throughout the facility necessitate thorough cleaning.
- Inspect ceiling tiles and replace those that show significant staining from dust, dirt, and water damage.

Operations:

- Work to resume normal dayroom schedules. Low staffing levels have resulted in increased amount of time subjects are secured within their cells. This presents concerns for their mental health, as well as various challenges for the staff and facility operations.
- Ensure staff are inspecting cells to maintain windows and lights are not covered. Numerous cells were observed with the back window covered which eliminated a clear view into the cell. An unobstructed view is needed to ensure safety and security.
- Population-Continue to work on managing high daily population numbers and subsequent housing constraints. The facility is currently working with the Milwaukee House of Correction and the Racine County Jail to house inmates to reduce their daily population. It is clear based on the ADP reports that population level remains a concern. Population levels should be reviewed to assess facility needs and to develop long term planning.
- Classification- Review classification status to ensure individuals housed in the same cell have the same custody classification.
- Staffing- Continue to address the significant staffing shortages. [REDACTED]

I would like to thank Inspector Dobson and your staff for their cooperation during this inspection process. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Amy Vaughn, Inspector
Office of Detention Facilities

Cc: Aaron Dobson, Inspector
William Duckert, Captain
Joshua Briggs, Captain
Greg Bucholtz, Director ODF
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