

# 2023 Kane County Juvenile Detention Inspection Report

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## **Executive Summary**

The Department of Juvenile Justice conducted its annual inspection of the Kane County Juvenile Detention Center on July 19, 2023, 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 Davis
  - Operations Manager Rivera
  - Mental Health Director
  - 1 Supervisor
  - 2 Youth Counselors
  - Nurse
  - School Principal
  - 5 youth
  
- Documents Reviewed
  - Use of Force Policy
  - Confinement Policy
  - Behavior Management Policy
  - Training and Development Policy
  - Sample Electronic Youth Files
  - Security Check Policy
  - Youth Grievance Policy
  - Youth Grievance Logs
  - Resident Orientation Handbook
  - Sample Employee Training Records
  - Program Schedules
  - Educator Credentials
  - Medical Staff Credentials
  - Mental Health Staff Credentials
  - Fox River and Countryside Fire Inspection Report (5/18/23)
  - Commissary List
  - Dietary Menus
  - Academic Schedules

- Fire Drill Documentation
- Resident Search Documentation
- Mental Health Evaluation Form
- Sample Mental Health File
- Strategic Program Modification Forms and Documentation

## **Overview**

The Kane County Juvenile Detention Center is an 80-bed facility. At the time of the audit, the facility had 44 residents in custody. The facility had three living units in operation at the time of the walkthrough. Living units are arranged with three separate pods containing eight rooms per pod around a large common dayroom.

The facility has been assessed as fully compliant with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards through a formal audit process it underwent in February 2020. The PREA Audit Report, dated 4/6/2020 found the facility met 33/33 standards and exceeded an additional nine standards. The facility was audited again a few months prior to the on-site inspection. The results of that audit are still pending.

The facility has ample family visitation opportunities available, offering three days of in-person visits while continuing to offer virtual visits for families who request it. Free phone calls are available to youth every day. The amount of access youth have to families without incurring a cost is commendable and exceed County Detention Standards.

The physical state of the facility is good. Administrators have engaged with an outside volunteer for several years who works with youth to create murals throughout the facility that contribute to a welcoming atmosphere.

## **Admission Policy and Procedures**

The facility internally developed a screening tool (Probable Cause Search Type Criteria Form) to determine the type of search a youth receives on intake. The facility reports that approximately 80% of youth intakes receive a pat-down search upon intake, with the other 20% receiving a visual (strip) search based on the outcomes of the screening tool. All admission searches are tracked, indicating the youth's name, type of search conducted, and the reason for any strip searches.

The facility has a clear process for the security of youth clothing. Items are logged in the facility case management system and a printout is placed with the clothing. The facility also maintains a supply of donated clothing to provide youth upon release if needed. Youth watch a PREA video and receive an orientation during the intake process. There is an additional orientation that takes place after a youth's detention hearing in which a facility supervisor meets with the youth to discuss potential triggers, which are then incorporated into a larger case plan. Youth reported feeling like they understood what to expect during their stay after completing the orientation process.

## **Personnel, Staffing, and Supervision**

On the date of inspection, the facility employed 49 Juvenile Detention Officers (JDOs) and eight supervisors, three of which are specialty supervisors focused on training and programming. This is a slight improvement from the staffing total a year prior. Facility administrators have made concerted efforts to recruit and retain employees over the past year. One example of this is a new partnership the facility has developed with Family Counseling Services from Aurora, IL. In an effort to be responsive to employee trauma and needs, Family Counseling Services conducts debriefings and mental health check-ins with staff at the facility.

The facility maintains an active training program. Wednesdays are considered “training days” at the facility. All staff are scheduled for one full-day training session each month. There was comprehensive documentation detailing the training topic and number of hours provided for each staff during these training days.

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

The Kane County JDC utilizes several different types of programming to engage youth and enhance skills. Since the time of the 2022 inspection, the facility has implemented a resident council that meets every Friday. The council is run by the Operations Manager and usually consists of 6-8 youth. Standard topics include discussions on ways to reduce incidents in the building and hear other youth suggestions. At the request of youth through the council, a vending machine was added for use during family visits. Interviewed youth reported their participation in the council has made them feel like they have influence on how the facility operates.

Youth participate in a variety of programming throughout the week. Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT) Groups occur every day. These groups are facilitated by JDOs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as by teachers during Social Emotional Learning (SEL) school programming. Youth reported the group from the day prior to the inspection covered how to deal with dishonesty. The facility also has religious volunteers and a garden club available for youth, as well as art and music groups.

The facility manages a token economy system. Youth earn points in different behavioral categories throughout time blocks during the day, which in turn are converted into behavior levels once per week. Privileges associated with higher levels include increased items permitted in room (such as a radio), later bedtimes, and access to video games. Youth also earn “coupons” for exhibiting positive behaviors. Coupons can be redeemed through a commissary that contains a variety of items including snacks and decorative floor pads for youth rooms. Youth on the highest level participate in a group movie night once per week. Youth appeared to be motivated by level incentives during on-site interviews.

The facility uses a timeout system. Timeouts generally last 5-15 minutes, with more egregious behaviors requiring completion of a CBT tool called a “Resident Self Analysis,” which prompts residents to identify irrational thoughts that contributed to inappropriate behavior, as well as more rational beliefs to focus on in similar situations in the future. The facility also has a clear method for documenting non-behavioral room confinements (such as youth refusal to get up in the morning). Each case is documented, indicating the start time, reason for the confinement, and supervisor check-ins every 30 minutes.

In exigent circumstances, the facility does utilize individualized programming for youth who exhibit extremely assaultive behavior and/or have not responded to the facility's behavior program. These cases are documented on a Strategic Program Modification Form, in which the reasons for the individualized programs are noted and resident activities and behavior are logged on each day and shift. Youth on this program are out of their rooms during normal waking hours but participate in activities individually on a living unit. One youth was on this status during the review. The youth was out of his room working on assignments in the dayroom during the walkthrough. Despite being on an individualized program, the youth spoke very positively about staff at the facility. The youth reported staff care about him and spend time listening to him. This is notable, as youth in detention who are on special programs such as this rarely speak so positively about staff at their facility. The reports from this youth and others indicate there is a positive atmosphere at the facility and staff show investment in the youth.

As noted in the 2022 Inspection Report, there is a clear commitment to provide meaningful programming and minimize the use of confinement at the facility.

### **Medical and Health Care**

Medical services are provided via a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare. A nurse is onsite from 8am-8pm seven days per week and a nurse practitioner is on-site once per week and on call. The facility has a process in place to obtain necessary prescriptions for youth medication. Medication is administered by nursing personnel, except on rare occasions like holidays. All youth detained longer than seven days receive a physical. The facility has a clear sick call process.

### **Mental Health Services**

The facility is staffed by one Mental Health Coordinator and two Mental Health Clinicians. Youth are administered the Suicide Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised Assessment (SPQR) upon intake and all youth receive a mental health evaluation and one mental health contact per week. A Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner is on-site once per week and the facility can utilize the Kane County Diagnostic Center as needed. Youth who have external, private therapists can continue sessions via zoom while detained at the facility. At the time of the audit, this applied to approximately 15 youth at the facility.

Mental health clinicians run a dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) group with youth at the facility once per week. A LCSW runs three groups with each housing unit per week. A clinician meets with youth on individual programming daily.

### **Youth Grievances**

The facility has an established process for youth grievances. Grievance forms and grievance boxes were observed on all living units. Youth were familiar with the process and the facility maintains a log of youth grievances and outcomes. The facility utilizes a multi-tier process to responding to youth grievances, with a supervisor handling grievances initially and the Mental Health Coordinator managing the rest. In

2022, the facility processed 210 youth grievances, most of which related to subjects such as phone log requests, points, and requests for commissary changes/enhancements.

### **Education**

Educational services are managed through the Regional Office of Education. The facility has one principal and three teachers on-site (a job offer had been made to a fourth teacher the week of the audit). Teachers provide services to youth according to their endorsements (English, Math, and Science). The school principal acts as the primary substitute teacher when needed. History courses are provided through Edmentum, one period each day. Graduate youth are allowed to choose classes to take during the day through the Edmentum system.

The school schedule consists of six, 50-minute periods throughout the day. Youth attend school with their primary living units, and classes are capped at 12 students. Teachers utilize a direct instructional model for most periods throughout the day; this was observed during the facility walkthrough, as teachers were actively teaching and engaging students in both classrooms that were visited. Special education management occurs through a coordinator with the Regional Office of Education. At the time of the inspection, 25 youth had active IEPs. The special education coordinator sends an IEP summary to the facility every week and teachers meet to review it.