

Ohio

Department of Rehabilitation & Correction

John R. Kasich, Governor
Gary C. Mohr, Director

June 22, 2018

Sheriff George Lavender Jr.
Ross County Jail
28 North Paint Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

RE: 2017 – Annual Jail Inspection

Dear Sheriff Lavender,

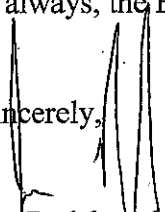
The Bureau of Adult Detention has received the plans of action and corrective material you submitted through the Ohio Jail Management System (OHJMS) in response to the annual inspection of the Ross County Jail on October 4, 2017. We appreciate your efforts in attempting to maintain compliance with the Standards for Jails in Ohio.

I have reviewed the provided material. The documentation will increase the level of compliance for the Ross County Jail on Jail Standards: 5120: 1-08-03(B)(11)(b)(Essential); -05(C)(Essential) and -10(F)(Essential).

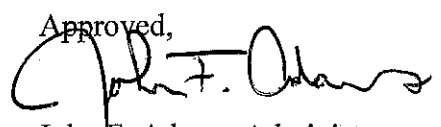
The Plans of Action submitted for the remaining deficiencies appear to identify the proposed means for bringing the Ross County Jail back into compliance with these Standards. We encourage you to implement these changes as soon as possible. The Ross County Jail will remain a *Status Jail* until the next inspection or until the remaining corrective action has been completed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns relating to this correspondence. As always, the Bureau remains available to provide technical assistance upon request.

Sincerely,


Jon Radebaugh, Assistant Administrator
ODRC/Bureau of Adult Detention
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Approved,


John F. Adams, Administrator
ODRC/Bureau of Adult Detention
Office: (614) 752-1834
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cc: Capt. Glenn Detty, Jail Administrator
Ross County Board of Commissioners
File



Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction

John R. Kasich, Governor
Gary C. Mohr, Director

03/15/2018

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

RE: 2017 Annual Jail Inspection

Dear Sheriff George Lavender Jr.:

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 10/04/2017. 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 176 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 98 standards, 46 "Essential", and 52 "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); -02 (D); -03 (A)(1); -03 (A)(4); -03 (A)(5); -03 (A)(7); -03 (B)(2); -03 (B)(4); -03 (B)(5); -03 (B)(6); -03 (B)(9); -03 (B)(10)(a); -03 (B)(10)(b); -03 (B)(10)(c); -03 (B)(10)(d); -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); -04 (K); -05 (A); -05 (B); -05 (E); -05 (G)(1); -05 (G)(2); -05 (H)(3); -05 (I); -05 (J); -05 (K); -05 (L); -05 (M); -05 (N); -05 (O); -05 (P); -05 (Q); -06 (B); -06 (C); -06 (G); -07 (A); -07 (D); -07 (E); -07 (H); -07 (I); -09 (A); -09 (B); -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 (E); -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);

The Ross County Jail did not comply with 16 standards, 6 "Essential", and 10 "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.

5120:1-8-03 (A) Each full service jail shall maintain the following minimum standards in regard to security of the jail. (3) (Essential) A secure booking and release area.

Comments: At the time of inspection, it was observed that jail staff had left the inner sally port door (#104) open. The sally port doors are to remain closed at all times and only opened when the other has closed. This area shall be secure and passage through this area must be controlled.

5120:1-8-03 (A) Each full service jail shall maintain the following minimum standards in regard to security of the jail. (6) (Essential) A two-way communications system between central control, staffed posts and inmate occupied areas.

Comments: At the time of inspection, it was observed that the two-way communications system in the inmate holding cells was not operational.

5120:1-8-03 (B) Each full service jail shall have written policies and procedures, and practices which evidence, that the following minimum standards are maintained. (7) (Essential) Personal observation checks of inmates shall be conducted every sixty minutes on an irregular schedule. Observation checks shall be conducted at varying times and shall be documented after completion by the staff person performing the check.

Comments: At the time of inspection, personal observation logs indicated the jail had exceeded the time requirement for this standard. Each inmate shall be personally observed within the housing unit by jail staff at least once every sixty minutes and verified as being safe and secure either by the inmate's physical movement and/or other noticeable signs. These checks shall be at irregular intervals (not to exceed sixty minutes) so that inmates do not anticipate the appearance of an officer. CCTV and other monitoring equipment may not be used as a substitute for direct staff observation.

5120:1-8-03 (B) Each full service jail shall have written policies and procedures, and practices which evidence, that the following minimum standards are maintained. (8) (Important) In jails that recognize special needs inmates, they shall develop their own policy to address the management of those inmates with special needs.

Comments: On the date of inspection, the jails current policy does not specifically cover special needs inmates. It was also noted and discussed with Jail Administration during the inspection that the jail does not provide handicapped accessible furnishings for special needs inmates (i.e. wheelchairs, toilets, showers).

5120:1-8-03 (B) (11) Procedures guide searches of jails and inmates to control contraband.
(b) (Essential) A security inspection of the jail shall be conducted once per month.

Comments: At the time of inspection, Jail Administration provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard. At least monthly on an irregular interval, all bars, locks, windows, walls, floors, ventilator covers, glass panels, access plates, protective screens, doors, other security devices, furnishings and equipment that is accessible to inmates shall be checked for inmate tampering, operational wear or the concealment of contraband. Results of these inspections shall be documented.

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: Dayspace: (Important) Thirty-five square feet per number of occupants occupying the dayspace at one time. Minimum size of one hundred five square feet.

Comments: At the time of inspection, due to overcrowding, the jail has exceeded the recommended capacity minimum square footage requirements for this standard.

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: At the time 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: Due to overcrowding, the jail has exceeded the ratio of shower facilities of 1:12. It should also be noted that water temperatures taken on the day of inspection had also exceeded 120 degrees. Shower temperature taken on date of inspection was 126 plus. Jail Administration was made aware.

5120:1-8-05 (C) (Essential) Monthly sanitation, vermin and safety inspections of all areas shall be done by a designated trained staff person.

5120:1-8-10 (D) (Important) Records of food items served at meals shall be maintained pursuant to the jail's record retention schedule.

Comments: At the time of inspection, the jail did not provide supporting documentation in order to evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-10 (F) (Essential) All persons involved in the preparation of food shall receive a pre-assignment medical examination and annual re-examinations.

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

5120:1-8-18 (C) (Important) Administrators and supervisors shall receive training in addition to the training specified in paragraph (B) of this rule as follows:

(1) Training in jail policies and procedures prior to assignment to jail duties.

(2) During the first year of assignment, forty hours of training including legal aspects of jail management, managerial principles, labor relations, and records/information management.

(3) Eight hours of in-service training each subsequent year of employment addressing special issues, skills-enhancement, and other assignment related topics.

Comments: At the time 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.

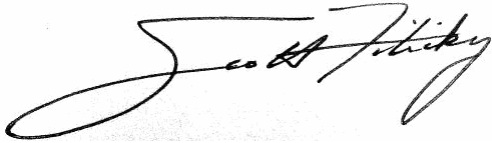
Comments: At the time of inspection, the jail provided supporting documentation that did not evidence compliance for this standard.

5120:1-8-18 (E) (Important) The jail policies and procedures shall be available to jail staff, reviewed annually and updated by the sheriff, jail administrator, or designee, as needed.

Comments: At the time of inspection, the jail did not provide supporting documentation to 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 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,



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