



## Chapter 2911 Advisory Committee 1-21-2025 Meeting Notes

Meeting began around 1:00 p.m. central time

Page-and-line numbers correspond with the [online rule draft](#), dated 12/3/2024.

### 1. Brief overview of well-being checks.

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- Importance of well-being checks
- History behind the existing requirements
- Problems with the existing requirements
- Proposed changes

### 2. General concerns on well-being checks.

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- Need to account for people dying in their sleep because of opioid overdose, suicide, seizure, etc.; sleeping is a vulnerable time for people
- Staffing concerns and adding unnecessary work for custody staff

### 3. Definition of well-being check (2911.0200, subp. 73); lines 6.14 to 6.17.

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#### 3.1 Requirement for a custody staff person to stop during a check.

- Some members questioned whether stopping was needed:
  - Difficult for smaller jails
  - Would need to define what a “stop” is
  - How long of a stop is needed to meet the requirement?
  - Why is stopping needed if people are in a dayroom?
  - Possible PREA concerns
  - Do custody staff need to stop at every cell when they know that a cell is unoccupied?
- Other members could understand instances when stopping is needed to ensure someone is alive and well



- Difficult to draft language that sets minimum standards but allows for individual judgment

### **3.2 Other comments.**

- Should add language on “visual” observation and observing breathing

### **4. Well-being checks; suicide watch.**

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- Discussion on suicide watch and how jails determine when to remove a person from suicide watch
- Question on whether “suicide watch” should be defined
- Need to have robust referral to health-care personnel for placing an incarcerated person on 15-minute checks; possibly expand situations when someone should be placed on 15-minute checks

### **5. Well-being checks; additional comments.**

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- Not all jail designs allow for staggering the direction of the checks; staggering by time usually not done at night
- Provision on uncovering head and neck is too disruptive and unnecessary given other ways custody staff can check on a person’s well-being; other members thought that this was needed given the risks of asphyxiation and facial signs of people in distress
- Need for additional clarity on the time required for auditing footage of well-being checks
- Question on how an emergency and missed checks apply to jails using a dispatcher

### **6. 15-minute checks for withdrawal.**

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- Requiring someone to go on 15-minute checks because of previous substance use in 72 hours is unnecessary; many people admitted to jail have previously used a substance
- Other members felt that the language could be more specific and that people with a substance use disorder are at a heightened risk upon admission

### **7. Housekeeping.**

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- “Facility administrator” includes the administrator’s designee (see lines 3.8 to 3.11)
- “Emergency” is defined in existing rule: “a significant incident or disruption of normal facility procedures, policies, routines, or activities” (see 2911.0200, subp. 31)

## **8. Next meeting.**

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- The next scheduled meeting is February 11, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. (hybrid)

The meeting ended around 2:25 p.m. central time

### **Attendees**

*Advisory committee:* Rick Hodsdon, Pat O'Malley, Shawn Larsen, Steve Schmitt, Margaret Zadra, Linus Chan, Linda Wolford, Guadalupe Lopez, Eren Sutherland, Elliot Butay, Brett Huber, Sr., Andrew Larson

*Members of the public:* Around 60 people