



Facility Inspection Report Issued By The Minnesota Department of Corrections Pursuant to MN Statute 241.021, Subdivision 1

Inspection and Enforcement Unit, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200, St.Paul MN 55108
Telephone: 651-361-7146 Fax: 651-642-0314 Email: ie-support.doc@state.mn.us

INSPECTION DETAILS FOR:

Blue Earth County Jail

Address: 401 Carver Road, Mankato, MN 56002

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Rachel Dotseth – Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 06/01/2023

Inspection Method: Facility tour, staff interviews, employee and resident file reviews, and related documentation reviews.

Officials Present During Inspection: Jail Administrator Joslyn Lachmiller

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Chief Deputy Jeremy Brennan; Jail Administrator Joslyn Lachmiller ; Sheriff Jeff Wersal

Issued Inspection Report to: Chief Deputy Jeremy Brennan; Jail Administrator Joslyn Lachmiller ; Sheriff Jeff Wersal; County Administrator Robert Meyer; Regional Manager Dayna Burmeister

RULE COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Rule Chapter	Requirement Type	Total Applicable	Total Compliance	Total Non Compliance	Total Compliance With Concerns	Compliance Rating	Substantial Compliance Result/Criteria
2911	Mandatory	125	123	0	2	100.00%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	100	98	0	2	100.00%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 07/01/2023 **Ends On:** 06/30/2025 **Facility Type:** Jail
Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 06/30/2024
Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 6 hrs **Certificate Holder:** Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office
Special Conditions: None.

Approved Capacity Details **Operational Capacity is calculated as a percent of Approved Capacity beds.*

Bed Type	Gender	Approved Capacity	%Operating Capacity	Operational Capacity	Bed Details	Conditions
Secure	Coed	146	90	131.40	None.	None.

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules In Compliance With Concerns**Total: 2**

1. 2911.1900 POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUALS.

A facility shall have a written policy and procedure manual that is electronically available to staff and relevant regulatory authorities and defines the philosophy and method for operating and maintaining the facility. This manual shall be made available to all employees, reviewed annually, updated as needed, and staff trained accordingly. The manual shall include, at a minimum, the following chapters: A. correctional standards required under this chapter; B. administration and organization; C. fiscal management; D. personnel; E. training; F. inmate records; G. safety and emergency; H. security and control; I. sanitation and hygiene; J. food service; K. medical and health care services; L. inmate rules and discipline; M. communication, mail, and visiting; N. admissions, orientation, classification, property control, and release; O. inmate activities, programs, and services; and P. a written suicide prevention and intervention plan. The facility administrator or designee shall review policy and procedure manuals at least once each year. The review shall be documented in written form sufficient to indicate that policies and procedures have been reviewed and amended as appropriate to facility changes.

Inspection Findings:

The policy manual has been updated with changes from the new statutory language added in July of 2021. There were a few minor changes needed regarding the Chapter 2911 Rules.

Corrective Actions:

This was discussed with the Jail Administrator at the time of the inspection. Once updated have staff review the changes to the policy manual. Submit the changes to the Department by December 29, 2023.

Response Needed By:

2. 2911.5000 POST ORDERS; FORMAL INMATE COUNT; WELL-BEING CHECKS. Subpart 5. Well-being.

A facility shall have a system providing for well-being checks of inmates. A written policy and procedure shall provide that all inmates are personally observed by a custody staff person at least once every 30 minutes. Thirty-minute checks should be staggered. If a well-being check does not occur due to an emergency, it must be documented in the jail log and have supervisory review and approval. More frequent observation is required for those inmates of a special need classification who may be harmful to themselves. Examples of inmates of a special need classification include those classified as potentially suicidal, or as mentally ill, or those experiencing withdrawal from drugs or alcohol.

Inspection Findings:

A video review of well-being checks showed well-being checks were completed within the 30 minute timeframe. However, there was two checks viewed that were being completed too fast to observe the well-being of the inmates.

Corrective Actions:

Since the last inspection, the facility has been working diligently to improve their well-being checks. The facility has an audit process in place for all correctional staff to be audited monthly which includes documented follow-up on any deficiencies found. The Facility just had a well-being check refresher training on all staff in May 2023.

Response Needed By:**Chapter 2911 - Essential Rules In Compliance With Concerns****Total: 2**

1. 2911.3100 INMATE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS. Subpart 1. Written plan.

A facility administrator or designee shall have and implement a written plan for the constructive scheduling of inmate time. The plan shall: A. identify programs offered in the facility and when the programs are offered; B. identify persons conducting the program and whether or not the persons are facility staff, external community resources under contract, or volunteers; C. be consistent with established legal rights of inmates, type and status of inmates detained in the facility, and rule requirements associated with the facility's classification; D. provide inmates with the option to refuse to participate in facility programs, except work assignments and programs required by statute or court order; E. when males and females are housed in the same facility, provide comparable opportunities for participation in programs and services; and F. require documentation of programs offered and inmates participating in programs.

Inspection Findings:

The facility does not have the required documentation of programs and inmates participating in programs as required by the rule.

Corrective Actions:

The facility shall document when inmates are participating in programs.

Response Needed By:

2. 2911.3500 VOLUNTEERS.

When volunteers are used in facility programs, a written policy and procedure shall provide that a staff member is responsible for coordinating the volunteer service program. The policy includes the following elements: A. lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability for the volunteer services; B. a procedure for the screening and selection of volunteers; C. an orientation training program appropriate to the nature of the assignment; D. a requirement that volunteers agree in writing to abide by all facility rules and policies, with emphasis on security and confidentiality of information; and E. a statement that the administrator may discontinue a volunteer activity at any time by written notice.

Inspection Findings:

The volunteer contract does not include the provision that the administrator may discontinue a volunteer activity at any time by written notice.

Corrective Actions:

Add this statement to your volunteer packet and send to the Department of Corrections for review.

Response Needed By:**INSPECTION COMMENTS**

This was the Jail Administrator's first year in the role, while the facility has made great improvements from the previous inspection.

Physical plant:

The facility is well-maintained, cleaned, and organized. Some of the inmate's doors, and walls have graffiti and chipped paint, which the facility is in the process of repairing.

Since the last inspection, the facility has improved on the training plan, emergency drills, and well-being check training.

The facility will go to biennial status.

JJDPA Compliance

On June 01, 2023, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act audit was conducted. The Blue Earth County Jail is in a metropolitan statistical area and has 6-hour hold. The three core requirements reviewed are Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Removal of Juveniles for Adult Jail and Adult Lockups (Jail Removal), and Sight and Sound separation.

According to the DOC Portal System, the Blue Earth County Jail held or processed zero (0) juveniles during the federal fiscal year 2022-2023. Blue Earth County Jail does not hold or process any juveniles in the jail. The findings are as follows:

DSO: No violations of the facility holding status offenders in the jail.

Jail Removal: No violations for the jail removal standard.

Sight and Sound Separation: The facility design and policies allow for proper sight and sound separation. Blue Earth County does not hold delinquent juveniles in the facility per their policy. Juveniles are brought to Carver County Juvenile Detention Center or Juvenile Alternative Facility in Scott County.

The facility does not participate in any "Scared Straight" programs for any youth that are under public authority.

Court Holding: There is four secure court holding cells at Blue Earth County with two in one area and two in another area. There is a separate juvenile entrance and secure hallway for juveniles only that lead to the court holding cells. Juvenile court is time phased from adults in addition to physical plant separation.

Based on the documentation reviewed, no violations of the JJDP Act were found at the Blue Earth County jail.

Report completed By: Rachel Dotseth – Detention Facility Inspector

Signature: _____

