



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:

Dakota County Jail

Address: 1580 W Highway 55, PO BOX 247-J, Hastings, MN 55033

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Daniel Lipa – Detention Facility Inspector

Inspected on: 07/12/2023 to 07/21/2023

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

Officials Present During Inspection: Captain Kevin Engel; Commander Jim Gabriel; Jail Administrator Ben Verby

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Captain Kevin Engel; Jail Administrator Ben Verby

Issued Inspection Report to: Captain Kevin Engel; Commander Jim Gabriel; Jail Administrator Ben Verby; Sheriff Joe Leko; County Administrator Matt Smith; 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	123	120	1	2	99.19%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	99	99	0	0	100.00%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 08/01/2023 **Ends On:** 07/31/2025 **Facility Type:** Jail

Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 07/31/2024

Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: no approval **Certificate Holder:** Dakota 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	263	95	249.85	None.	None.

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance**Total: 1**

1. 2911.6800 CONTROL. Subpart 1. Records.

Records of receipt, the quantity of the drugs, and the disposition of all prescription medications shall be maintained in detail to enable an accurate accounting.

Inspection Findings:

Medication records do not enable staff to account for the quantity of medications currently assigned to inmates. There is no way to account if an inmate has been given the correct amount or doses of medication on a daily basis.

Corrective Actions:

Develop and implement a solution to the accountability of medications. Inform the Department of Corrections of the process and its effectiveness within 90 days.

Response Needed By: 10/30/2023**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 Jail Administrator conducts a review of the policy manual in accordance with this Rule part, but the review is not documented.

Corrective Actions:

This was discussed during the on-site audit and solutions were formulated. No additional actions are required at this time.

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:

The facility conducts well-being checks in compliance with this Rule part. Through discussions with facility leadership, it has become apparent that the facility is over-utilizing the use of more frequent watches to the point that it is becoming difficult for security staff to conduct their usual duties.

Corrective Actions:

It is recommended to evaluate the use of special watches and when inmates are placed on those watches.

Response Needed By:

INSPECTION COMMENTS

The Dakota County Jail has exceptional program options available to serve the needs of the inmate population. The facility has added additional programming options at a time when many facilities have reduced their offerings. The facility is also utilizing tablets for additional programming options.

The facility continues to be understaffed. This has been outlined in previous inspection reports, but Dakota County is working diligently to address these staffing concerns and outlined the efforts they are taking to address staffing shortages.

The building continues to show signs of age. However, Dakota County has undertaken several large-scale construction projects to update and upgrade the facility's capabilities. The facility was clean and appeared well-maintained during the on-site inspection.

Interviews with multiple inmates and staff members indicated that there are open, professional lines of communication between administration, staff and the incarcerated population.

Well-being checks:

Audits were conducted of multiple shifts and days of well-being checks. All well-being checks were observed to be conducted within the required timelines and were high quality. The facility conducts monthly audits of security staff's well-being checks and this appears to be having a positive impact on their performance.

Hardel Sherrell Act:

The Dakota County Jail is in compliance with all currently required aspects of the Hardel Sherrell Act.

The jail will remain on biennial inspections at this time.

JJDPA Compliance

On July 12, 2023, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act audit was conducted. Dakota County Jail does not have authorization to hold juveniles. The Dakota County Jail did not book any juveniles between October 1, 2022, and the inspection date.

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

Based on the information that I received and reviewed, I did not find any violations of the JJDP act during the Dakota County inspection.

Report completed By: Daniel Lipa – Detention Facility Inspector

Signature:

