



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

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INSPECTION DETAILS FOR:

Itasca County Jail

Address: 440 First Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Annual **Inspected By:** Troy Okerlund – Detention Facility Inspector

Inspected on: 06/07/2023 to 06/12/2023

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

Officials Present During Inspection: Assistant Jail Administrator Shawn Racine; Jail Administrator Lucas Thompson

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Assistant Jail Administrator Shawn Racine; Jail Administrator Lucas Thompson

Issued Inspection Report to: Assistant Jail Administrator Shawn Racine; Jail Administrator Lucas Thompson; Sheriff Joe Dasovich; County Administrator Brett Skyles; Regional Manager Jacob McLellan

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	126	122	2	2	98.41%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	98	96	1	1	98.98%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 07/01/2023 **Ends On:** 06/30/2024 **Facility Type:** Jail

Placed on Biennial Status: No **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:**

Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: no approval **Certificate Holder:** Itasca 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
Minimum secure	Coed	40	100	40.00	None.	None.
Secure	Coed	58	85	49.30	None.	None.

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance**Total: 2**

1. 2911.2500 SEPARATION OF INMATES. Subpart 1. General.

A combination of separate housing units inclusive of special management areas, general population, and minimum security areas and cells, dormitories, and dayroom spaces shall be provided to properly segregate inmates pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 641.14. The facility shall provide for the separate housing of the following categories of inmates: A. female and male inmates; B. community custody inmates such as work release or sentencing to service; C. inmates requiring disciplinary segregation; D. inmates requiring administrative segregation; E. juveniles who do not meet Minnesota statutory requirements for placement with adults; F. special management, general population, and minimum security inmates as considered appropriate to the facilities design intent and classification system; and G. inmates classified as mentally ill or special needs inmates in a manner consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 253B.05.

Inspection Findings:

Given the current facility design the Itasca County Jail is unable to maintain proper inmate separation by classification.

Corrective Actions:

Ensure that inmates are separated according to their security classification. Board out inmates that are not able to be properly separated according to their classification.

Response Needed By: 11/01/2023

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 review of well-being checks was conducted via video, all checks reviewed were completed within the required 30 minutes. However, the majority of the checks were conducted at a pace that would make it difficult to observe signs of life.

Corrective Actions:

The facility must conduct retraining with it's staff to include the importance of conducting a well-being check at a pace that can observe signs of life. Documentation of the retraining must be submitted to the DOC for review.

Additionally, it is recommended that the facility implement an auditing process to verify staff are completing well-being checks on time and at a pace that can observe signs of life. The audit should include reviewing at least one period of well-being checks per month for all staff members charged with performing checks. The facility should document and maintain records of all materials used and findings of these audits

Response Needed By: 08/01/2023**Chapter 2911 - Essential Rules Not In Compliance****Total: 1**

1. 2911.3100 INMATE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS. Subpart 7. Recreation plan.

The facility administrator or designee shall have a plan providing opportunities for physical exercise and recreational activities for all inmates consistent with the facility's classification and design. Class I facilities are exempt from this requirement. The plan shall include policies and procedures necessary to protect the facility's security and the welfare of inmates. Policy and procedure shall provide: A. inmates with access to recreational opportunities and equipment, including seven hours of physical exercise or recreation outside the cell and adjacent dayroom areas per week; B. recreational opportunities a minimum of five days per week; C. indoor space and equipment for active recreational activities in all Class II to Class VI facilities; D. outdoor recreational space and equipment for outdoor recreational programming in all Class VI facilities. The space and equipment shall be provided in a manner consistent with the facility's security classification; E. passive and active recreation needs and equipment for a variety of inmates consistent with the facility's classification and offenders served. As an example, activity needs of geriatric, disabled, or geriatric and disabled offenders shall be addressed; F. inmates in segregation with a minimum of one hour a day, seven days a week, of exercise outside the inmates' cells, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise; and G. discretionary access by inmates on segregation status to the same recreational facilities as other inmates unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise. When inmates on segregation status are excluded from use of regular recreation facilities, the alternative area for exercise used shall be documented.

Inspection Findings:

The size of the program room does not allow for inmates to participate in active recreation.

Corrective Actions:

This is a physical plant issue that cannot be resolved without significant remodel or new construction. The County is currently building a new facility to address this and other issues.

Response Needed By:**Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules In Compliance With Concerns****Total: 2****1. 2911.5450 DANGEROUS MATERIALS.**

A facility shall have a written policy and procedure that specifies that materials dangerous to either security or safety shall be properly secured. Storage and use of flammable, toxic, and caustic materials must be in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of governing jurisdictions. The policy must cover control and use of tools and culinary and medical equipment.

Inspection Findings:

Facility has improved security around the storage of bulk chemicals in the laundry, however the device was unlocked leaving the chemicals unsecured.

Corrective Actions:

Ensure the lock is locked and chemicals are secure so inmates will not have access.

Response Needed By:**2. 2911.7200 HOUSEKEEPING, SANITATION, AND PLANT MAINTENANCE. Subpart 1. General.**

A facility shall have a policy and procedure that provides that the facility shall: A. be kept in good repair to protect the health, comfort, safety, and well-being of inmates and staff; B. document weekly sanitation inspections; and C. document deficiencies from the weekly sanitation inspection, if any, have been ordered.

Inspection Findings:

Facility has breakaway hooks in concealed shower area. Older breakaway hooks could be manipulated so the hook will not break away causing a ligature point.

Corrective Actions:

Recommended to remove or replace with anti-ligature security hooks.

Response Needed By:

Chapter 2911 - Essential Rules In Compliance With Concerns**Total: 1****1. 2911.3100 INMATE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS. Subpart 2.A. Arrangements for religious services and counseling.**

A facility shall have either a chaplain with the minimum qualifications of clinical pastoral education or equivalent specialized training and endorsement by the appropriate religious certifying body or a community clergy consultant meeting the qualifications to assist the facility administrator in arranging for religious services and counseling as requested. No inmate shall be required to attend religious services. Religious services shall be held in a location that the inmates who do not wish to participate are not exposed to the service. Attendance or lack of attendance at religious services shall not be considered a criterion for rights or privileges within the facility. The facility administrator or designee in cooperation with the chaplain or community religious resource, plans, directs, and advises on aspects of the religious program, including approval and training of both lay and clergy volunteers from faiths represented by the inmate population. When a religious leader of an inmate's faith is not represented through chaplaincy staff, community religious resources, or volunteers, the chaplains or community religious resource shall assist the inmate in contacting such a person. That person shall have the appropriate credentials from that faith judicatory and may minister to the inmate with the approval of the chaplain or community religious resource. An inmate requesting private interviews or counseling in a setting not capable of being audio monitored with chaplaincy staff, community religious resources, or volunteers, or persons with the approval of the chaplain or community religious resource shall be given the opportunity within the policies as are reasonable and necessary to protect the facility's security. Bibles or sacred books of another religion may be made available to inmates by the facility, through local library or other community resources and limited to the inmate's period of confinement.

Inspection Findings:

The chaplain does not assist in advising on aspects of the religious program, including approval and training of both lay and clergy volunteers.

Corrective Actions:

Ensure the chaplain or community clergy works in cooperation with the facility administrator as required by the rule.

Response Needed By:**INSPECTION COMMENTS****Physical Plant:**

On April 25, 2023, the Sunset date for the Itasca County Jail was extended to January 31, 2024. The Itasca County Board of Commissioners approved a new correctional facility build. The new jail facility projected completion date is December 2023.

As previously noted the current facility has many physical plant issues limiting the overall quality of the jail. These have been noted within the sunset letter and previous inspections. The jail continues to make investments where needed to make sure that the facility runs in a safe manner.

It is anticipated that the current jail will only be in operation for another 6 months. A new inspection will take place at the new facility on or about December 2023 and the cycle length of inspection will be determined after that inspection.

The Itasca County Jail will remain on an annual inspection cycle.

JJDPA Compliance

On June 8, 2023, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act audit was conducted. The Itasca County Jail has no juvenile hold authority.

The Itasca County Jail does not hold or process juveniles in the secure perimeter.

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

No violations of the JJDP act were identified during the Itasca County Jail inspection.

Report completed By: Troy Okerlund – Detention Facility Inspector

Signature:


